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Alabama

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Alabama. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand the terminology, contents, and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

The Family History Library has many of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include cemetery, census, land, marriage, military, and probate records. The library has microfilm copies of county records from all counties, although several county courthouses have burned or had records partially destroyed.

Some sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, microfiche, compact disc, and computer numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. Use the numbers to find materials in the Family History Library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers (formerly known as branch genealogical libraries).

You can use the computer number if you have access to the Family History Library Catalog on computer. The "Computer Number Search" is the fastest way to find a source in the catalog.

The Internet is of growing importance to genealogists. Sources found on the Internet are cited in this outline with their Universal Resource Locator (URL) address.

FAMILYSEARCH™

FamilySearch at Family History Centers. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing millions of names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your family history research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; others have been extracted from original sources. The Family History Library and many Family History Centers have computers with

FamilySearch. A few FamilySearch resource files—for example, the *U.S. Social Security Death Index* and the *U.S. Military Index*—are found on the Family History Library and Family History Center version of FamilySearch, but not on the FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service.

Family History Library and Family History Center computers with FamilySearch do not have access to the Internet or computer on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. Those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations. Limited access to the Internet is available on a few computers in the Automated Resource Center in the Family History Library.

FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service. The Internet site at www.familysearch.org allows you to preserve your genealogy, order Family History Library publications, learn research strategies, and look for information about your ancestors in the following resources:

Ancestral File, a file of more than 35 million names organized into families and pedigrees.
International Genealogical Index, an index of more than 600 million names extracted out of vital records primarily from the British Isles, North America, and northern Europe.

Family History Library Catalog, a description and classification of over 2 million microfilm reels and hundreds of thousands of genealogical books. You can search the catalog by family name, locality, author, book title, or film number.

SourceGuide, a resource that contains a collection of over 150 "how-to" research outlines for states, nations, or genealogy topics; an extensive glossary of word meanings; and a catalog helper.

Family History Centers, a list of locations where you can order the microfilms described in the Family History Library Catalog and SourceGuide.

Web Sites, a categorized list of thousands of links to Internet sites related to family history.

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Collaboration Lists, a link to user-created mailing lists of researchers interested in similar genealogy topics.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog available at the library, at each Family History Center, and on the Internet at www.familysearch.org/Search/searchcatalog.asp. To find a record in the Family History Library Catalog, look in the Locality Search for:

- The place where your ancestor lived, such as:
UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS
ALABAMA - VITAL RECORDS

ALABAMA, LEE - LAND AND PROPERTY
ALABAMA, LEE, AUBURN - CHURCH RECORDS

- The record type you want to search, such as:

UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS
ALABAMA - VITAL RECORDS
ALABAMA, LEE - LAND AND PROPERTY
ALABAMA, LEE, AUBURN - CHURCH RECORDS

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

RECORD SELECTION TABLE: ALABAMA

This table can help you decide which records to search. It is most helpful for post-1850 research.

- In column 1, find the category closest to your research goal.
- In column 2, find the types of records most likely to have the information you need.
- In column 3, find additional record types that may be useful.
- Then turn to the section of this outline that corresponds to the record type you chose. The section explains what the records might tell you, how to search them, and how to find them in the Family History Library Catalog. Some records are not at the Library.
- If you do not find the desired information, see the Records Selection Table in the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more suggestions.

Note: Records of previous research (Genealogy, Biography, History, Periodicals, and Societies) are useful for most goals, but are not listed unless they are *especially* helpful.

1. If you need:	2. Look first in:	3. Then search:
Adoptions	Court Records, Vital Records	Probate Records, Census, Obituaries
Age	Census, Cemeteries, Obituaries	Vital Records, Military Records, Bible Records
Birth date	Vital Records, Obituaries, Cemeteries	Church Records, Bible Records, Military Records
Birthplace	Vital Records, Church Records, Obituaries	Census, Military Records, Naturalization and Citizenship
Boundaries and origins	Maps, Gazetteers	History
Children	Census, Probate Records, Obituaries	Vital Records, Church Records
City or parish of foreign birth	Vital Records, Obituaries, Biography	History, Naturalization and Citizenship, Church Records
Country of foreign birth	Census, Naturalization and Citizenship, Vital Records	Biography, Minorities, Obituaries
Death information	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Obituaries	Probate Records, Church Records, Bible Records
Divorce	Divorce Records, Vital Records, Court Records	Newspapers, Census
Emigration information	Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship, Census	Biography, History, Obituaries

1. If you need:	2. Look first in:	3. Then search:
Ethnic background	Native Races, Minorities, Emigration and Immigration	Census, Obituaries, Naturalization and Citizenship
Historical background	History, Periodicals, Gazetteers	Maps, Church Records
Immigration date	Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship, Census	Obituaries, Biography, History
Living relatives	Obituaries, Probate Records, Directories	Court Records
Maiden name	Vital Records, Church Records	Probate Records, Military Records, Obituaries
Marriage information	Vital Records, Bible Records	Obituaries, Probate Records, Military Records
Migration information	Emigration and Immigration, Census, Biography	History, Land and Property, Maps
Naturalization	Naturalization and Citizenship, Census, Court Records	Voting Registers, Biography, Periodicals
Occupations	Census, Directories, Obituaries	Land and Property, Biography, History, Probate Records
Other family members	Census, Obituaries, Probate Records	Vital Records, Church Records
Parents	Vital Records, Obituaries, Census	Church Records, Biography
Physical description	Military Records, Naturalization and Citizenship, Emigration and Immigration	Biography, History
Place-finding aids	Maps, Gazetteers, History	Periodicals, Archives and Libraries
Places of residence	Census, Military Records, Obituaries, Vital Records, Church Records	Land and Property, Taxation, Voting Registers
Place of residence when you know only the state	Census, Vital Records, Military Records	Land and Property, Obituaries, History
Previous research	Genealogy, Biography, Periodicals	Societies, History, Archives and Libraries
Record-finding aids	Archives and Libraries, Periodicals	Societies, Genealogy, For Further Reading
Religion	Church Records, Vital Records, Obituaries	Biography, History, Cemeteries
Social activities	Societies, Obituaries, Biography	Newspapers, History, Cemeteries

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Most archives and libraries collect records about local residents (biographies, family histories, and local histories) and about nearby places (maps, gazetteers, and place-finding aids). They often compile reference helps and special indexes to important local sources. In many communities they serve as a meeting place for local historical and genealogical societies, and may be able to provide referrals to people who are willing to look up information in local records. Before you visit an archive or a library, contact them and ask for information on their collection, hours, services, and fees.

When one of these institutions is referred to elsewhere in this outline, return to this section for the address.

The Family History Library has copies of many of the records found in archives and libraries, but most repositories will have additional sources.

Many archives and libraries have helpful sources for locating information about Alabama, such as maps, gazetteers, and other place-finding aids. They frequently have collections of previous research, such as family and local histories and biographies. Many have record-finding aids, such as guides to their own collections or inventories of

records housed elsewhere in the state. Archives and libraries near state boundaries usually collect records relating to the adjacent states.

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful to genealogical researchers:

- Alabama Department of Archives and History
624 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36130-0100
Telephone: 334-242-4435
Fax: 334-240-3433
Internet address: www.archives.state.al.us
E-mail: ndupree@archives.state.al.us

The mailing address is:
P.O. Box 300100
Montgomery, AL 36130-0100

The Department of Archives and History (closed Mondays) has the following records: federal and state censuses; vital records (birth, death, marriage, and divorce); county records (deeds, wills, and other probate records); land, military, and military discharge records (DD214s); surname files; city directories; African-American records (Reconstruction to the present); American Indian records; and immigration and naturalization records.

- National Archives—Southeast Region (Atlanta)
1557 St. Joseph Ave.
East Point, GA 30344
Telephone: 404-763-7477 or 7650
Fax: 404-763-7059
Internet address: www.nara.gov
E-mail: archives@atlanta.nara.gov
- Birmingham Public Library
2100 Park Pl.
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: 205-226-3665
Internet address: www.bham.lib.al.us/
E-mail: jpate@bham.lib.al.us
- Samford University Library
Special Collection Dept.
800 Lakeshore Dr.
Birmingham, AL 35229
Telephone: 205-726-2749
Fax: 205-726-2642
Internet address:
www.daviswel.samford.edu/about/special/html
- Mobile Public Library
Local History Dept.
704 Government St.

Mobile, AL 36602-1499
Telephone: 334-208-7093
Fax: 334-208-5866
Internet address: www.mplonline.org
E-mail: mplhlg@acan.net

- William Stanley Hoole Special Collections Library
University of Alabama
500 Hackberry Ln.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0266
Telephone: 205-348-0500
Fax: 205-348-1699
Internet address: www.lib.ua.edu/hoole/
E-mail: archives@bama.ua.edu

The mailing address is:
P.O. Box 870266
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0266

- Auburn University
Special Collections Dept.
Ralph Brown Draughon Library
231 Mell St.
Auburn, AL 36849-5606
Telephone: 334-844-1700
Fax: 334-844-1703
Internet address: www.lib.auburn.edu/special/
E-mail: fostedc@lib.auburn.edu

The library has a large genealogical collection and a helpful worldwide web site.

To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Alabama counties, use the 14 inventories of county archives, published by the Historical Records Survey from 1938 to 1942. These were published for: Clay, Colbert, Conecuh, Cullman, Greene, Hale, Lauderdale, Lowndes, Madison, Marengo, Sumter, Talladega, Wilcox, and Winston counties. The Family History Library has the inventories for Colbert, Conecuh, Cullman, Hale, Lauderdale, Lowndes, Marengo, and Talladega counties. To find these in the Family History Library Catalog see:

ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Courthouse Fires

Fires occurred in many county courthouses. If records are missing, you can often find cemetery records, censuses, church records, newspapers, Bible records, military service and pension records, delayed birth certificates, or records in neighboring counties that have similar information. Sometimes landowners registered their deeds after

a courthouse fire. The following list shows when courthouses were damaged by fire:

Baker 1870
Butler 1853
Calhoun 1861, 1865
Cherokee 1882
Chilton 1870
Choctaw 1871
Clay 1875
Coffee 1877
Conecuh 1868, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1900
Coosa 1900
Covington 1839, 1847, 1878, 1895
Crenshaw 1898
Dale 1869, 1885
Fayette 1866, 1916
Franklin 1890
Geneva 1898
Greene 1868
Jackson 1864, 1920
Jefferson 1870
Lawrence 1859
Limestone 1862
Marengo 1848, 1965
Marion 1866, 1883
Mobile 1823, 1840, 1872
Monroe 1832
Morgan 1926, 1938
Pickens 1864, 1876
Pike 1828
Randolph 1897
Sumter 1901
Walker 1865, 1877, 1886, 1932
Winston 1891

The above list was compiled from *Research in Alabama* by Wendy L. Elliott and *Researching in Alabama: A Genealogical Guide* by Marilyn Davis Barefield both cited in the "For Further Reading" section in this outline.

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems are important for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Search databases.
- Search computer libraries and on-line catalogs.
- Locate other researchers.
- Send and receive e-mail.
- Post queries.
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions.

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Alabama in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost. *Internet addresses are subject to change.* The following sites link you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service [Internet site]. [Salt Lake City]: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 22 March 1999 [cited 1 March 2000]. At www.familysearch.org, you can access the Family History Library Catalog, *Ancestral File*, *International Genealogical Index*, *SourceGuide*, lists of Family History Centers, web sites related to family history, and lists of researchers interested in similar genealogy topics. You can also learn about and order Family History Library publications.

Howells, Cyndi. "U.S. - Alabama - AL." In Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet [Internet site]. Puyallup, Wash.: Cyndi Howells, 1 March 1999 [cited 1 March 2000]. Available at www.cyndislist.com/al.htm, this list has links to other Alabama genealogy sites and describes more resources than any other site on the Internet.

Stark, Gene. "Gendex - WWW Genealogical Index." In Gendex [database online]. N.p.: G. Stark, 14 December 1999 [cited 1 March 2000]. Available at www.gendex.com/gendex/, this is a surname index of every personal genealogy site on the Internet known to the compiler, including over 12 million individuals.

"Alabama USGenWeb." In The USGenWeb Project [Internet site]. N.p., 29 December 1999 [cited 1 March 2000]. Available at www.rootsweb.com/~algenweb/, this lists genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.

"United States Resources: Alabama" In RootsWeb [Internet site]. N.p., 30 November 1999 [cited 1 March 2000]. Available at www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/al.html, this list of sites and resources includes a large, regularly updated research coordination list.

"ALGenExchange." In Genealogical Exchange & Surname Registry [Internet site]. N.p., 1996-2000 [cited 1 March 2000]. Available at www.genexchange.com/al/index.cfm, this site

includes searchable databases (church, cemetery, census, land, immigration, naturalization, and vital records); directories; historical accounts; mailing lists; queries; local surname researchers; and look-up volunteers.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

Some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch. These computers do not have access to on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. You can use these services at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

Publications concerning archives in Alabama are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - ARCHIVES AND
LIBRARIES

BIBLE RECORDS

Relatives often gave a Bible to a bride as a wedding gift, where she recorded information about her immediate family and close relatives. Relationships were seldom stated but were often implied. Names of parents, children, and their spouses, including maiden names, were frequently given along with dates of birth, marriage, and death. Sometimes the age of a person was given at the time of death. Many families kept Bible records from the 1700s (and sometimes earlier) to more recent times, although few have survived. Some have been donated to local libraries or societies.

For Alabama the following sources are beneficial:

The Gandrud and Jones' collection, *Alabama Records*, contains many Alabama Bible records. It is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) *Miscellaneous Records*, described in the "Cemetery" section of this outline, also has many Bible records. The DAR records are indexed by surname in *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the Southern States* mentioned in the "Genealogy" section of this outline.

Many periodicals publish family data from Bible records. These are referenced in the "Families" section of the *Periodical Source Index* (PERSI),

described in the "Periodicals" section of this outline.

The above sources and additional transcriptions of Bible records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - BIBLE RECORDS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - BIBLE
RECORDS

BIOGRAPHY

Biographies provide useful genealogical information such as an individual's birth date and place (including foreign birthplaces where applicable); family members; occupation and education; and social, political, and religious affiliation. They may also contain a physical description of the person, his or her previous residences, and immigration information. Biographies are the product of family knowledge or previous research compiled about early settlers and prominent citizens of the state, county, or town. Many lesser-known individuals may have biographical sketches written about them in local histories.

The Family History Library does not have a statewide biographical index or major manuscript collection for Alabama. You will find many biographies in the biographical sections of statewide, regional, and county histories.

The WPA project *Index to Alabama Biography: An Index to Biographical Sketches of Individual Alabamians in State, Local, and to Some Extent National Collections* was sponsored by the Birmingham Public Library in 1956. This collection may be useful for locating persons in Alabama in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The project indexes over 100 biographical and historical titles. This index is available at the Birmingham Public Library (see the "Archives and Libraries" section for the address.)

A representative biographical encyclopedia is:

Owen, Thomas McAdory. *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography*. 4 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing, 1921. (FHL fiche 6048243-46 [set of 40]; computer number 248035.) The first two volumes have historical information about Alabama events and places. The last two volumes are biographical.

A source for portraits is:

Alabama Portraits Prior to 1870. Mobile, Ala.: Gill Printing and Stationary, 1969. (FHL book 976.1 D3c; computer number 254146.) The book has portraits, in alphabetical order, with some family history information about each individual.

See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for information on nationwide biographical collections. See also the "History" and "Genealogy" sections of this outline for additional sources.

The Surname Search of the Family History Library Catalog will lead you to biographies and published family histories on specific surnames. Using the term "Alabama" in the Keyword Search will help limit the search to families in Alabama.

The Family History Library has many biographies and local or county histories with biographical sketches on residents. These can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog, under:

ALABAMA - BIOGRAPHY
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - BIOGRAPHY
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - HISTORY
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - HISTORY

CEMETERIES

Alabama tombstone transcriptions date from the early 1800s. Tombstones and sextons' records may give birth and death dates, age at death, name of spouse, names of children, and maiden names. Birth places are infrequently mentioned. Tombstones may have symbols or insignias suggesting military service and social, fraternal, or religious affiliations. Family members may be buried in the same plot or nearby.

The *Gandrud and Jones Alabama Records Collection* and the *Daughters of the American Revolution* collection contain tombstone inscriptions from many Alabama cemeteries. The Gandrud and Jones collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. The *Daughters of the American Revolution* collection is:

Daughters of the American Revolution (Alabama). Miscellaneous Records. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1970. (On 7 FHL films beginning with 835113; computer number 60522.) There are 44 other microfilms in the DAR collection for Alabama. See the Family History Library Catalog, Author/Title Search of

the microfiche catalog, under *Daughters of the American Revolution (Alabama)*, for a list of the other films. This collection consists of transcripts of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriages, deaths, obituaries, and wills. It was microfilmed in 1970 and 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C. The volumes are generally arranged by county and many have individual indexes. These records are indexed by surname in E. Kay Kirkham's *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the Southern States*, cited in the "Genealogy" section of this outline.

Genealogical society members often copy and publish tombstone inscriptions. The USGenWeb Archives has records from cemeteries listed on their Internet site at:

The Alabama Tombstone Transcription Project. In USGenWeb Archives Digital Library [Internet site]. N.p.: USGenWeb Archives, 17 February 1999 [cited 15 July 1999]. Available at www.rootsweb.com/~cemetery/alabama.html, this is a county-by-county list of cemeteries. The highlighted cemeteries include tombstone abstracts. Abstracted cemeteries are indexed in:

"Search the USGenWeb Archives Digital Library" In USGenWeb Archives Digital Library [Internet site]. N.p.: USGenWeb Archives, 22 September 1997 [cited 15 July 1999]. Available at www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ussearch.htm, this Internet site indexes cemetery abstracts and other items. Select a state, type the name of the ancestor you are searching for in the "Query" field, and click the **Search** button. For best results, use the "Search Tips" and examples at the bottom of the web page. The computer will list any matches it finds and give you the option of viewing the full transcript.

A county-by-county list of cemetery record transcripts and the book and film numbers to locate them at the Family History Library as of 1988 is:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Family History Library (Salt Lake City, Utah). *Index to United States Cemeteries*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1206468-94; computer number 475648.) FHL film 1206468 includes Alabama through Arkansas.

You will find many cemetery records transcribed and published in genealogical periodicals. See the

"Periodicals" section of this outline for indexes to periodicals.

Cemetery records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - CEMETERIES
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - CEMETERIES
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
CEMETERIES

CENSUS

A census is a count and description of the population of a country, territory, state, county, or city. A well-indexed census is one of the easiest ways to locate the places where your ancestors lived and identify the dates they lived there. You can also find family information, particularly in more recent censuses. Use the information with caution, however, since any member of the family or a neighbor may have given the information to a census taker.

Federal Censuses

Population Schedules (1790–1920). Federal censuses from 1790 to 1840 list the names of heads of households but do not give the names of other persons living in the household. Census records from 1850 on show the names of each member of the household and give his or her age, state or country of birth, marital status, occupation, and race. Naturalization and immigration information is included in the 1870, 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses.

These records can also give clues to number of years married (1900 to 1910), death dates (in mortality schedules, 1850 to 1880), previous residences, adoptions, and divorces. Parents or other relatives may have been living with a family when a census was taken. Other persons in the county with the same surname may be related. Statewide indexes help locate families when you know only the state where they lived.

Federal census records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* (30972) provides more detailed information on these records.

No federal census records exist for Alabama for the years 1790 and 1800. The 1810 Mississippi Territory census of Washington County, now part of Alabama, is available.

The 1820 federal census was lost for all counties. However, the state census exists for Baldwin, Conecuh, Dallas, Franklin, Limestone, St. Clair, Shelby, and Wilcox counties.

The 1890 federal population census for part of Perry County, Alabama, survived a fire in 1921. The remaining portion is for Perryville, beat number 11 and Severe, beat number 8. The records are on microfilm:

United States. Census Office. 11th Census, 1890. *Population Schedules of the Eleventh Census of the United States, 1890*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0407. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1962. (FHL film 926497; computer number 59484.) An index is:

Nelson, Ken. *1890 U.S. Census Index to Surviving Population Schedules and Register of Film numbers to the Special Census of Union Veterans*. Rev. Ed. Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1991. (FHL book 973 X2na 1890; computer number 609990; 1984 edition is on film 1421673 item 11; computer number 279653.)

The 1890 Federal Union Veterans and Widow's census did not survive for Alabama.

The Family History Library also has microfilms of some county and state copies of the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses. These are sometimes more accurate and have more information than the federal copies. The library catalog entry shows if the censuses were filmed at the county courthouse.

Statewide indexes are available in book format for the 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses. These list the names of heads of households. The *Family Finder Index* on compact disc and the Accelerated Indexing Systems microfiche include Alabama indexes for 1820–1850. Soundex (phonetic) indexes are available on microfilm for part of the 1880 and all of the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses.

An 1870 census card index that has a card for each family is available for 31 counties: Autauga, Baker, Baldwin, Barbour, Bibb, Blount, Bullock, Calhoun, Chambers, Chilton (see Baker County), Clarke, Colbert, Conecuh, Coosa, Crenshaw, Dale, Dallas, Dekalb, Elmore, Escambia, Etowah, Geneva, Greene, Hale, Henry, Houston (see Henry County), Jackson, Jefferson, Lauderdale, Lowndes, and Macon. The cards list name, age, race, gender, birth place, occupation, real estate and property value, mortality information, county, page, beat

(area visited by census taker), post office, precinct, range, and township. The page number on each card refers to the page number in the census copies held by the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Some of the information may not be accurate. The schedules mentioned on the cards refer to Schedule One, which lists residents. Schedule Two is the mortality schedule, and Schedule Three is for agriculture. These films are:

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *1870 Census Index to Selected Alabama Counties*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1989. (On 14 FHL films beginning with 1556985; computer number 513548.)

Countywide indexes to federal censuses often contain the names of each person in the household and may also include heads of households that were overlooked or whose names were misspelled in statewide indexes. Countywide indexes are listed in the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - CENSUS -
[YEAR]

Multistate Indexes. Some statewide indexes mentioned above are combined into composite master indexes of several census years, states, and census types:

FamilyFinder Index and Viewer. Version 4.0. Family Tree Maker Archives, index. [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 9 1997 index; computer number 808500.) This does not circulate to Family History Centers. It is a single composite index to early Alabama tax lists, 1790–1860 federal censuses, 1850 and 1860 slave schedules, and 1850–1880 mortality schedules. An Internet edition of this index is also available:

“*Internet FamilyFinder*” In FamilyTreeMaker.com [Internet site]. [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 21 July 1999 [cited 17 March 2000]. Available at www.familytreemaker.com/allsearch.html. You can search the “Internet FamilyFinder” index free. It displays the census year and state for each name matching the search. It may also list many vital records and genealogical collection citations. Once you know the census year and state you need, you must use the original index on compact disc, microfiche, or book to obtain enough data to find the name in the original census schedules. Similar index information is also

available at www.Ancestry.com/census/ for a subscription fee.

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *AIS Microfiche Indexes of U.S. Census and Other Records*. Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems International, 1984. This set has not been assigned Family History Library fiche numbers, but is available at many Family History Centers. It contains names from early censuses, tax lists, and residents’ lists 1704 to 1819, and from the Alabama 1820, 1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses.

Census records for selected counties of many states have been combined in an index on compact disc in:

Census Index: U.S. Selected States/Counties. Version 3.0 [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 1995–1996. (FHL compact disc no. 9 pts. 310–20; computer number 773983.) The compact discs identified as parts 311–320 include Alabama and index portions of the 1790 to 1870 censuses. This does not circulate to Family History Centers.

When census indexes are not available or omit a name, you can still look for the name in the original census schedules. In large cities, it helps first to learn a person’s address. This can be done by searching city directories near the time of the census. Information for a directory was gathered long before publication. Therefore, a directory for the year after the census may match the census better than the one published during the census year. (See the “Directories” section of this outline for more information.) Once you learn the address of an ancestor, , search the original census schedules for that address.

The following can help determine which census schedule and enumeration district to search for:

Census Descriptions and Geographical Subdivisions and Enumeration Districts. National Archives Microfilm Publications, T1224 and T1210. These describe the boundaries of the area covered by each census taker:

- 1880 no records exist for Alabama
- 1900 FHL film 1303019; computer number 117685
- 1910 FHL film 1374001; computer number 176643
- 1920 FHL film 1842702; computer number 687949

Maps are helpful to use with censuses because of boundary changes that have occurred over the years. A publication that is especially good to use with Alabama census records is Thorndale and Dollarhide's *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790–1920*. It is cited in the "Maps" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) under the subheading "Locating Township and County Boundaries."

Veterans' Schedule (1840). In the 1840 federal census, a listing was made of Revolutionary War veterans that included the age of the veteran, the place where he was living, and the name of the head of the household. An index is:

A General Index to A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1965. (FHL book 973 X2pc 1965 index; fiche 6046771; computer number 270948; film 899835; computer number 271067.) The census of pensioners is published in:

A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services: With their Names, Ages, and Places of Residence, as Returned by the Marshalls of the Several Judicial Districts, Under the Act for Taking the Sixth Census. (FHL book 973 X2pc 1840; film 2321; computer number 270766.)

Mortality Schedules (1850–1880). Mortality schedules exist for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. They list persons who died during the 12 months before the census was taken. For 1830 to 1900, the day set by law to begin taking the censuses was June 1. The mortality schedules are at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. The Family History Library has the 1850 to 1880 schedules on microfilm:

- 1850 (FHL film 1533724 item 2; computer number 483054.)
- 1860 (FHL films 1533724 item 3 and 1533830; computer number 483056.)
- 1870 (FHL film 1405189; computer number 380732.) (See the 1870 census index above which includes 31 counties.)
- 1880 (FHL films 1405190–91; computer number 403205.)

Mortality schedules include a person's name, age, race, marital status, state or country of birth, month of death, and occupation. The names are recorded alphabetically by county, city, precinct, and district. In 1850 they list the names of free persons

and slaves together. They often gave the slaves' full names. The 1880 schedule also lists the state or country of birth of the person's parents. When you find a person listed in a mortality schedule, you can look in the population schedule census for that same county and district. This may help you identify the family to which the deceased person belonged.

Statewide mortality schedule indexes include:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Alabama 1850 Mortality Schedule*. North Salt Lake, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1984. (FHL book 976.1 X2ja 1850; computer number 312153.) This alphabetical list gives the name of the person, county, age at death, sex, month of death, state of birth, illness, and page number in the mortality schedule. Note that they also list the names of slaves.

Barefield, Marilyn Davis. *Alabama Mortality Schedule 1860*. Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1987. (FHL book 976.1 X2bm; computer number 486866.) This book is arranged by county and is indexed. It includes the person's name, age, gender, marital status, state or country of birth, month and cause of death, and occupation.

Slave Schedules (1850–1860). Slave schedules for the 1850 and 1860 censuses list the names of slave owners, but do not usually list the names of the slaves. They give the number of slaves, whether male or female, and the slaves' age-ranges. Alabama slave schedules at the Family History Library are cataloged with the population schedules. The 1850 and 1860 mortality schedules list the names of slaves who died during the 12 months preceding June 30, 1850, and June 30, 1860.

Colonial Censuses (1706–1795)

Early census records for 1706, 1721, and 1725 French settlements in or near Mobile, Alabama, have been published:

Deep South Genealogical Quarterly (FHL book 976.122 B2d; computer number 210946.) See the "Periodicals" section in the outline. These censuses are in the following volumes:

For the 1706 census see 1, no. 1 (August 1963): 30

For the 1721 census see 1, no. 3 (March 1964): 136–139

For the 1725 census see 1, no. 2 (December 1963): 86

A census was taken in 1785 of the town of Tensas, which is east of Mobile. This was published in:

DeVille, Winston. "Some Anglo-Americans in the Deep South, 1785." *Genealogical Helper*. 36, no. 5 (Sept.–Oct. 1982): 5–6. (FHL book 929.05 G286; computer number 258416.) There are 46 men listed.

Censuses for 1786, 1787, 1789, and 1805 have been published in:

Andrews, Johnnie, Jr., and William David Higgins. *Spanish Census Reports at Mobile*. Prichard, Ala.: Bienville Historical Society, 1973. (FHL book 976.1 A1 no. 20; film 908670 item 10; computer number 246520.)

Census records for 1781 to 1795 are available in:

Feldman, Lawrence H. *Anglo-Americans in Spanish Archives: Lists of Anglo-American Settlers in the Spanish Colonies of America; A Finding Aid*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1991. (FHL book 973 X2fe; computer number 624685.) Included in this book are lists for Mobile and Tombecbe (now St. Stephens, Washington County) 1781, 1785, 1786, 1791, and 1795. These give the names of men or women who were heads of household.

Territorial Censuses (1795–1810)

The censuses of Washington County, Mississippi Territory, which included present-day Alabama, for 1801, 1808, and 1810 can be found in:

"Washington County (now) Alabama 1801, 1808 and 1810 Census." *The Alabama Genealogical Register* 9, no. 3 (September 1967): 123–26. (FHL book 976.1 B2a; computer number 210827.)

The Madison County 1809 census is available in:

"Madison County, Alabama 1809 Census." *The Alabama Genealogical Register* 10, no. 4 (December 1968): 175–82. (FHL book 976.1 B2a; computer number 210827.)

The 1809 census was also published in the *Territorial Papers of Mississippi* (see the "Land and Property" section of this outline).

The 1810 census of Mississippi Territory, which included present-day Alabama, is available in:

Alabama 1810 Census Index. Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1981. (FHL book 976.1 X22a 1810; computer number 223721.)

The Alabama 1816 census is published in:

Inhabitants of Alabama in 1816. Pell City, Ala.: Broken Arrow Chapter, DAR, 1955. (FHL book 976.1 X3i 1816; film 962161 item 17; computer number 253971.) The includes alphabetical lists of residents in counties in Alabama.

Census Substitutes

Records that identify a person's place of residence are often used as substitutes for censuses, especially for colonial times, when censuses were not required, or for years when censuses are missing. Some census substitutes include oaths of allegiance and lists of petitioners. Other substitutes for census records are city directories, tax lists, and voting records that are described in the "Directories," "Taxation," and "Voting Registers" sections of this outline. These records may be published as statewide census indexes which often provide only vague references to the source of the information indexed. Census-like indexes have been published in book form for 1811 to 1819, 1821 to 1829, and 1831 to 1839. The source of the data in these indexes is not always clear. These books are:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Alabama, 1811–1819, Decennary Census Index*. Salt Lake City: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1983. (FHL book 976.1 X22j 1811–1819; computer number 223733.) This includes names from the 1811 and 1816 territorial censuses, marriage records, 1812 to 1819, and tax lists 1811 to 1815. The names from this index are included in AIS Search Two.

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Alabama, 1821–1829, Decennary Census Index*. Salt Lake City: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1983. (FHL book 976.1 X22j 1821–1829; computer number 223735.) This was prepared from marriage records and gives the names of the bride and groom, the county, and year. These names are not included in AIS Search Two.

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Alabama, 1831–1839, Decennary Census Index*. Salt Lake City: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1983. (FHL book 976.1 X22j 1831–1839; computer number 223737.) This book was prepared from marriage

records for 1830 to 1839 and Mobile residents' lists for 1837 and 1839. These names are *not* included in AIS Search Three.

State Censuses (1820–1866)

State censuses exist for 1820, 1850, 1855, and 1866. The Family History Library has copies of many of the 1820, 1855, and 1866 state censuses on microfilm. These were filmed at the Department of Archives and History. The library does not have copies of the 1850 state census.

The following counties' 1820 state census records are on FHL film 1533830: Baldwin, Conecuh, Dallas, Franklin, Limestone, St. Clair, Shelby, and Wilcox. Census records for Lawrence County are on FHL fiche 6046599.

For 1855 the Alabama Department of Archives and History has the lists for 12 counties: Autauga, Baldwin, Blount, Coffee, Franklin, Henry, Lowndes, Macon, Mobile, Pickens, Tallapoosa, and Tuscaloosa.

The Family History Library has the 1855 census microfilms for 16 counties: Autauga, Baldwin, Blount, Coffee, Franklin, Henry, Lowndes, Macon, Mobile, Montgomery, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, and Wilcox. They are listed in the Locality Search in the Family History Library Catalog under the county.

Part of the 1855 census has been indexed:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Alabama 1855 Census Index*. Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1984. (FHL book 976.1 X2j 1855; computer number 312155.) The census lists only the head of household. Other persons are indicated by statistics in age groups and by gender. This indexes the records of twelve counties: Autauga, Baldwin, Blount, Coffee, Franklin, Henry, Lowndes, Macon, Mobile, Pickens, Tallapoosa, and Tuscaloosa.

The 1866 state census is available at the Alabama Department of Archives and History and microfilm copies for most counties are at the Family History Library. It lists the heads of households, regardless of color, and gives the number of persons in the various age ranges. It also indicates the number of deceased or disabled Confederate soldiers who were members of that family.

Confederate Veterans' Censuses (1907, 1921, 1927)

Special censuses of Confederate veterans who were receiving a pension were taken in 1907, 1921, and 1927. Microfilm copies are available at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, and at the Family History Library:

Alabama. State Auditor. *Confederate Soldiers in Alabama: 1907–1927*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (On 10 FHL films beginning with 1533727; computer number 482535.) The films for 1907 are first, followed by 1921 and 1927.

The 1907 census includes each person's name, place of residence, date and place of birth, rank, date of entry into military service, date and place of discharge or separation, and name of military unit. The 1907 lists have been abstracted, indexed, and published. They are available in:

1907 Alabama Census of Confederate Soldiers. Cullman, Ala.: Gregath, 1982. 5 vols. (FHL book 976.1 X22c 1907; on 4 films beginning with 1421815 item23; on 8 fiche beginning with 6093367; computer number 197542.) The film and fiche have information for these counties: Bibb, Calhoun, Chilton, Choctaw, Cleburne, Coffee, Coosa, Cullman, Dale, Jackson, Lawrence, Lee, Marion, Mobile, Monroe, Morgan, Talladega, and Tallapoosa Counties. The volumes are alphabetical by county. This book gives the soldier's name, full birth date, city and state of birth, when and where enlisted, unit, and mustering-out date.

The 1921 census provides each veteran's name, place and date of birth, place of residence, length of Alabama residence, occupation, wife's age and place of birth, marriage date and place, names of living children, occupation, and post office box. The forms also contain the veteran's rank, company, regiment, captain and colonel's name, battles, wounds, captures, imprisonments, and transfers.

The 1927 census contains the veteran's name, his widow's name, her age and birth date, and their marriage date. The records are arranged by county, then alphabetically by the name of the widow. This series is not complete. Some of the returns are found in the Confederate Pension Applications.

Many of the territorial and state census call numbers are found in:

Buckway, G. Eileen. *U.S. State and Special Census Register*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Family History Library, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1992. (FHL book 973 X2be 1992; fiche 6104851-52; computer number 594855.)

Other Alabama census sources can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - CENSUS
ALABAMA - CENSUS - [YEAR]
ALABAMA - CENSUS - [YEAR] -
INDEXES
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - CENSUS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - CENSUS -
INDEXES

CHURCH RECORDS

Church records and the information they provide vary greatly depending on the denomination and the record keeper. They may contain information about members of the congregation, such as age; dates of baptism, christening or birth; marriage information, such as the bride's maiden name and the names of both sets of parents; death or burial date; admissions; and removals. Records may include names of other relatives who were witnesses or members of the congregation. The members of some churches were predominately of one nationality or ethnic group. Church records are important for Alabama family research because civil authorities in Alabama did not begin registering vital statistics until after 1908.

Roman Catholic church records for Mobile date from about 1700. In the 1800s, the largest religious groups in Alabama were the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches. To find information about churches up to 1870, such as when the churches were founded, names of ministers and early members, and associated cemeteries, see:

Daughters of the American Revolution (Alabama). *Some Early Alabama Churches (Established Before 1870)*. Birmingham, Ala.: Parchment Press, 1973. (FHL book 976.1 K2d; computer number 254142; film 1026262 item 8; computer number 2691.)

The Family History Library has a few church records for Alabama, but most remain with the local churches. Some denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn

where records of a particular denomination are located.

Baptist

Special Collection, Samford University Library. See the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline for the address. The Samford University Library Website has an inventory of their records.

For histories of the Baptist Church, see:

Holcombe, Hosea. *A History of the Rise and Progress of the Baptists in Alabama*. 1840. Reprint, Bessemer, Ala.: West Jefferson County Historical Society, 1974. (FHL book 976.1 K21h; computer number 248039.) This history of the Baptist Church to 1840 is indexed.

Flynt, F. Wayne. *Alabama Baptists: Southern Baptists in the Heart of Dixie*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1998.

Episcopal

A list of the Episcopal congregations in Alabama before 1939 is:

Inventory of the Church Archives of Alabama: Protestant Episcopal Church. Birmingham, Ala.: Alabama Historical Records Survey Project, 1939. (FHL book 976.1 K2h; film 897366 item 3; computer number 253734.) This gives the location of each church with a brief history and describes the types and years of records that existed for each congregation in 1939.

Methodist

Houghton Memorial Library
Huntingdon College
1500 E. Fairview Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36106-2148
Telephone: 334-833-4421
Fax: 334-263-4465
Internet address: www.huntingdon.edu
E-mail: edidwell@huntingdon.edu

Charles Andrew Rush Library
Birmingham-Southern College
900 Arkadelphia Rd.
P.O. Box 549020
Birmingham, AL 35254-9990
Telephone: 205-226-4740
Fax: 205-226-4743

Internet address: www.bsc.edu/library
A history of the Methodist Church in Alabama is:

Lazenby, Marion Elias. *History of Methodism in Alabama and West Florida*. N.p., 1960. (FHL book 976.1 K2L; computer number 248037.) This book includes a list of deceased ministers and a name and subject index.

Presbyterian

Presbyterian Historical Society
425 Lombard St.
Philadelphia, PA 19147
Telephone: 215-627-1852
Fax: 215-627-0509

Roman Catholic

Diocese of Mobile—Birmingham
400 Government St.
P.O. Box 966
Mobile, AL 36633
Telephone: 334-434-1585
Fax: 334-434-1588

Some of the records of this diocese are available on microfilms at the Family History Library.

Alabama church records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - CHURCH HISTORY
ALABAMA - CHURCH RECORDS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
CHURCH HISTORY
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
CHURCH RECORDS

COURT RECORDS

Names of many Alabama residents are found in district and county court records. Civil court actions include disputes over property and the settlement of estates. Criminal court actions include confrontations, thefts, and destruction of property. These records may give a person's age, residence, occupation, and family relationships. Sometimes friends and neighbors may have given depositions as witnesses. Court records include dockets, minutes, case files, and orders. Land, tax, and probate matters may be included.

Major Alabama courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

1807–1972	Justice of the peace courts. These courts were originally established in 1807 under the Mississippi Territory. They kept records of minor civil and criminal cases.
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1809–1818	Superior courts of law and equity. These courts were first established under the Mississippi Territory. They had jurisdiction over civil and criminal cases and divorces from 1809 to 1818, at which time their jurisdiction was given to the circuit courts. The first superior courts were established by Mississippi Territory legislation in 1809.
1818–present	County courts. These are countywide courts, also known as inferior courts, intermediate courts, civil courts, criminal courts, and law and juvenile courts. They keep records of civil and criminal cases.
1819–present	Circuit courts. These are countywide courts that have jurisdiction over felonies, major criminal and civil cases, and appeals from inferior courts.
1900s–present	Records courts. These are sometimes referred to as municipal courts, city courts, mayors' courts, and town courts. They are established in cities with a population of 1,000 or more. These courts keep records of minor civil and criminal cases occurring within the city.
1821–1915	Commissioners' courts. This court levied the county tax and laid out and discontinued roads, bridges and highways.
1839–1915	Chancery courts. These courts had jurisdiction over divorces. After 1915 the jurisdiction for divorces was given to the circuit courts. The chancery and circuit court records are kept by the same clerk in less populated counties.

The court of criminal appeals, court of civil appeals, and the supreme court serve as statewide appellate courts.

For detailed information about when these courts were created, what types of cases they heard, and the records they kept, see the Historical Records Survey inventories listed in the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search. Search by county under the subject "Archives and Libraries."

The Family History Library is microfilming probate court, orphans court, chancery court, and county court records. All supreme court records prior to 1881 were transferred to the Alabama Department of Archives and History. The Administrative Office of Courts (Judicial Building,

300 Dexter Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104) is microfilming Alabama court records.

The *Gandrud and Jones Alabama Records Collection* (see the "Genealogy" section of this outline) includes some Alabama court records.

Original court records are kept either in the county courthouse or in the State Archives. The Family History Library and the Alabama Department of Archives and History have microfilm copies of court records from many counties. Few of the records are well indexed. Some court records have been transcribed and published in books or periodicals.

See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more detailed information on court records. Refer to the "Probate Records," and "Naturalization and Citizenship" sections of this outline for information about those specific court records.

Court records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - COURT RECORDS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - COURT
RECORDS

DIRECTORIES

Directories have been published for various Alabama cities and counties since the early 1800s, though they may not be available for every year. Some directories focus on the businesses or occupations of an area, others include heads of households, landowners, and voters.

City and county directories are similar to present-day telephone books and are useful records for locating people. They were often published annually. They list heads of households and employed household members with their occupations and addresses. They can be used with census records or as substitutes for them.

Directories are particularly valuable for research in large cities where a high percentage of the people were renters, new arrivals, or temporary residents. In fact, a directory may be the only source that lists an ancestor if he or she was not registered to vote and did not own property. Most households were included because the directories were created for salesmen, merchants, and others interested in contacting residents of an area.

Directories have other clues that may require careful study to discover. For example, people in similar or related occupations were often relatives, in-laws, or friends. A year-by-year study of directories may reveal the movement of ancestors and relatives within the city and sometimes to or from other cities.

Many directories were published as county directories listing inhabitants of major towns in the county. Rural directories collected information on farmers, dairymen, and other rural residents. The Family History Library has city directories for various years from throughout the state of Alabama including:

Birmingham, 1902–1935 and 1940
Huntsville, 1859–1850 and 1931
Mobile, 1837–1935
Montgomery, 1859–1860, 1878, 1902–1935, and 1940

The Family History Library has compact discs that contain telephone directories for most of the United States. These directories are not available at Family History Centers, but may be used at the Family History Library. Current telephone directories can also be found on the Internet, and may help you find living relatives.

See the "Directories" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more detailed information on the value and content of directories.

To find directories, consult the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - DIRECTORIES
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
DIRECTORIES

DIVORCE RECORDS

In the early 1800s, the legislature, the circuit courts, and city courts granted divorces. Divorce records may indicate the date and place of the marriage being dissolved. Circuit or city courts have handled most divorce proceedings.

Alabama divorces were settled in county chancery courts until 1915. The state legislature was also empowered to authorize divorce decrees. In 1915 the chancery courts were merged with the circuit court in each county. The Family History Library is microfilming divorce records of local chancery courts.

Statewide registration of divorces began in 1950. Copies are on microfilm or may be obtained from the Center for Health Statistics Record Services (see the address in the "Vital Records" section of this outline).

The Family History Library has these records on microfilm:

Alabama. Bureau of Vital Statistics. *County Divorce Reports, 1818–1929; Index, 1908–1937*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988–1990. (On 11 FHL films beginning with 1530489; computer number 482797.) The indexes are on films 1653550–51. These records are at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. The records are arranged by year, then by county. They may list the date and place of birth and marriage.

Alabama. Department of Health. (Montgomery, Alabama). *Divorces, 1938–1992; Index, 1950–1959*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1993. (On 337 FHL films beginning with 1892719; computer number 719834.) The index for 1950 to 1959 is on film 1908984.

Publications with divorce records for 1818 to 1868 are:

Hageness, MariLee Beatty. *Alabama Divorces 1818–1868, State Legislature*. Alabama Genealogical Sources; AL1004. Anniston, Ala.: M.L. Hageness, 1995. (FHL book 976.1 V2hm; fiche 6038873; computer number 794535.) This book alphabetically lists the persons who were divorced with the divorce date and county.

Alabama divorce records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - DIVORCE RECORDS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - DIVORCE
RECORDS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - COURT
RECORDS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - VITAL
RECORDS

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Nearly 50 million people have immigrated to the United States. You can gain essential information from immigration records such as your ancestors' arrival date, port of departure and arrival, names of

other family or community members, and the country they came from.

The *United States Research Outline* (30972) "Emigration and Immigration" section lists several important sources for finding information about immigrants. These nationwide sources include many references to people who settled in Alabama. The *Tracing Immigrant Origins Research Outline* (34111) introduces principles, search strategies, and additional record types you can use to identify an immigrant ancestor's original hometown.

During the early 1700s, some French and Spanish families immigrated to the southern coastal area, but most pre-statehood settlers of Alabama came from the older southern states, especially North and South Carolina and Georgia. Many of these were cotton planters of English or Ulster Scots origin. Many slaves were brought to the state. Most American Indians were moved westward to Oklahoma by 1839, but a few hundred Creek Indians still live in southern Alabama.

Mobile has been a port of entry for overseas immigrants since early colonial times. Relatively few overseas immigrants who came in the 1800s stayed in Alabama. The Family History Library and the National Archives have the following indexes and records:

Indexes to passengers arriving at Mobile are:

Connick, Lucille Mallon. *Lists of Ships Passengers, Mobile, Alabama*. 2 vols. Mobile, Ala.: L.M. Connick, 1988. (FHL book 976.122 W3c; computer number 495665.) Volume One has passenger lists for 1838 to 1840; Volume Two has lists for 1841 to 1860. These provide the ship's name; the name of the ship's captain or pilot; and the names of passengers, often with their age, country of birth, occupation, and residence.

United States. Immigration and Naturalization Service. *Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Miscellaneous Ports in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, 1890–1924*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, T0517. Washington, D.C.: Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1957. (FHL films 1324938–63; computer number 92107.)

Mobile passenger lists are available on microfilm:

United States. Bureau of Customs. *Copies of Lists of Passengers Arriving at Miscellaneous Ports*

on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts and at Ports on the Great Lakes, 1820–1873. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0575. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1964. (FHL film 830234; computer number 216254.) The film includes portions of Mobile lists for 1832 and 1849 to 1852.

United States. Bureau of Customs. *A Supplemental Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Atlantic & Gulf Coast Ports (Excluding New York) 1820–1874*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0334. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Record Services, 1960. (FHL films 418161–348; computer number 216582.) This film indexes Mobile passengers for 1832, 1849 to 1852.

Migration. A source listing persons traveling through Indian lands is:

Potter, Dorothy Williams. *Passports of Southeastern Pioneers, 1770–1823: Indian, Spanish, and Other Land Passports for Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Mississippi, Virginia, North and South Carolina*. Baltimore, Md.: Gateway Press, 1982. (FHL book 975 W4p; computer number 266264.) During the period from 1798 to 1819 Alabama was part of the Mississippi Territory. These records list people going from the Mississippi Territory elsewhere, or coming into the Mississippi Territory from other states. The records also mention people who obtained passports from the Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Cherokee Indian agencies to pass through their land. The book is well indexed.

Alabama immigration records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - EMIGRATION AND
IMMIGRATION
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

GAZETTEERS

National gazetteers, postal guides, and Alabama county histories list the names of places, such as towns and rivers. Three other sources of geographical information include:

Berney, Saffold. *Handbook of Alabama: A Complete Index to the State, With Map*. 2nd ed. rev. Birmingham, Ala.: Roberts and Son, 1892. (FHL book 976.1 E6b; film 908968 item 8;

computer number 248022.) This has historical information about the state, its counties, and major cities. Pages 66–76 list the counties and the precincts. The handbook also contains information about Alabama courts on pages 93–98 and 540–547. Coal mines are listed on page 473, and cotton mills are listed on pages 487–490.

Foscue, Virginia O. *Place Names in Alabama*. Tuscaloosa, Ala.: University of Alabama Press, 1989. (FHL book 976.1 E2f; computer number 565553.) This book contains historical and geographical information about counties, cities, towns, settlements, rivers, creeks, lakes, and mountains.

Harris, W. Stuart. *Dead Towns of Alabama*. Tuscaloosa, Ala.: University of Alabama Press, 1977. (FHL book 976.1 E2h; computer number 248020.) This contains alphabetical lists of towns, forts, and Indian towns and villages and their location. It is indexed.

Gazetteers are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - GAZETTEERS

GENEALOGY

Nationwide Indexes

You may find information about some of your ancestors in the following nationwide genealogical indexes described in the *United States Research Outline* (30972), in the sections indicated.

- *Ancestral File*, “Genealogy” section. Also available on the FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service.
- *FamilyFinder Index*, “Census” section. Also on the Internet at www.familytreemaker.com/allsearch.html.
- *Family History Library Catalog Surname Search*, “Introduction” and “Genealogy” sections. Also available on the FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service.
- *International Genealogical Index*, “Genealogy” section. Also partially available on the FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service.
- *Index to National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC)*, “Genealogy” section. Also on Internet at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html>.

- *Old Surname Index File*, “Genealogy” section.
- *Pedigree Resource File*, which consists of unedited, lineage-linked pedigrees submitted over the Internet to the Family History Department since 1999. It also includes the associated family groups, descendancy charts, and sometimes notes or sources. Available for purchase at the Family History Library for use on personal computers.
- *Periodical Source Index (PERSI)*, “Periodicals” section. Also available on the Internet at www.ancestry.com/ancestry/search/3165.htm for a subscription fee.
- *Social Security Death Index*, “Vital Records” section. Also available on the Internet at <http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com/> or on compact disc from several companies. The Internet version sometimes includes more recently reported deaths than compact disc versions. For details about the FamilySearch compact disc version, see *U.S. Social Security Death Index Resource Guide* (34446).
- *U.S. Military Death Index*, which lists deaths of service men and women who died in Korea and Vietnam during those conflicts. It is available at most Family History Centers as part of FamilySearch. For details see the *Military Index Resource Guide* (34540).

These indexes are available at the Family History Library and many libraries with family history collections.

Web Sites about Your Family

Search the Internet for family history web sites about your surname. Use the “Search for Ancestors” feature of the FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service at www.familysearch.com/default.asp to help you find such sites.

Statewide Indexes

Genealogical publications and collections generally contain birth, marriage, and death information, often for several generations. Some biographical information also may be included.

Some of the major genealogical indexes and collections for Alabama are:

Alabama. Department of Archives and History.
Surname Collection. Montgomery, Ala.:

Department, 1985. (On 675 FHL films beginning with 1486776; computer number 481548.) This collection is arranged alphabetically and includes published and manuscript materials from the 1700s to 1985.

Gandrud, Pauline Myra Jones. *Alabama Records*. Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1981–. 245 vols. (FHL book 976.1 D29ja; computer number 143946.) To date, 100 of the 245 volumes have been published. Volumes 1–232 and 235 are available on films (see the source below). There are one or more volumes for most counties. This collection has transcripts of tombstone inscriptions; death, marriage, probate, land, church, and court records; Bible records; obituaries; tax lists; military pensions; and other records. Each volume is individually indexed.

A typescript edition of the above records was filmed at the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Library in Washington, D.C.:

Jones, Kathleen Paul and Pauline Jones Gandrud. *Alabama Records*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1939–1983. (FHL films 840512–29 and 844382–91; computer number 180135.) These films contain volumes 1–232 and 235. There are often several volumes for a county.

Another DAR collection is *Miscellaneous Records* cited in the “Cemeteries” section of this outline. A surname index for these two DAR collections is:

Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Family Records of the Southern States: 35,000 Microfilm References from the NSDAR Files and Elsewhere*. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1979. (FHL book 973 D22kk Vol. 1; fiche 6089183; computer number 32871.) There are two alphabetical surname indexes in the book, both of which should be searched. Not all individuals were included in the index.

See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) “Genealogy” section for other important indexes.

For family histories published in periodicals, from 1847 to the present, see the *Periodical Source Index*, mentioned in the “Periodicals” section of this outline.

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. Usually these must be searched in person. Major collections of

compiled genealogies and genealogical source material for Alabama include:

England, Flora D. *Alabama Notes*. 4 vols. in 2. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1977. (FHL book 976.1 D2ef 1977; computer number 247926.)

Lineage Book (Alabama Genealogical Society). 2 vols. Birmingham, Ala.: Alabama Genealogical Society, 1991, 1997. (FHL book 976.1 D2L; computer number 627218.) These volumes contain the name and address of each member and have four-generation pedigree charts, usually starting with the member's parents. The charts provide names of ancestors with birth, marriage, and death dates and places. Each volume has about 4,000 names and is fully indexed.

Saunders, James E. *Early Settlers of Alabama*. 1899. Reprint, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1969. (FHL book 976.1 D2s 1969; fiche 6051449; computer number 248018; a 1961 publication is on film 2360; computer number 248017.) The book is indexed, but for a more complete index, see:

Oliver, Lloyd F. *Index to Colonel James Edmonds Saunders' Early Settlers of Alabama*. Tomball, Tex.: Genealogical Publications, 1978. (FHL book 976.1 D2s index; computer number 6041.)

Ancestor Charts. Huntsville, Ala.: Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, 1975-. 4 vols. (FHL book 976.19 B2tv; film 982377 item 3; computer number 264042.) The Tennessee River Valley crosses through the northern part of Alabama. These ancestor charts of members of the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society often contain birth, marriage, and death information for five generations of the submitter's family. The address of the submitter is given.

Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society (Alabama). *Lineage Chart Book*. Tuscaloosa, Ala.: Society, 1979, 1990. (FHL book 976.1 D2t; computer number 18379.) Each volume contains six-generation lineage charts, some with information to the 1600s. Each volume is indexed by surname.

Genealogies are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - GENEALOGY
ALABAMA - SOCIETIES

ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
GENEALOGY

HISTORY

The following important events in the history of Alabama affected political jurisdictions, family movements, and record keeping.

1702	The first permanent settlement, Fort Louis de la Mobile, was founded by the French north of the present site of Mobile.
1710-1763	The Alabama area was governed by France. English, French, and Spanish settlers and settlers from South Carolina and Georgia established trading posts.
1711	Mobile was the capital of the Louisiana Territory until 1720 when Biloxi became the capital. In 1722 New Orleans became the capital.
1763	Under the Treaty of Paris in 1763, France ceded present-day Alabama to Great Britain.
1783	Britain ceded the southern region, around Mobile, to Spain. The area further north of the Alabama region was claimed by Georgia. The boundary between the two areas was in dispute until 1795, when it was set at the 31st parallel, a few miles north of Mobile.
1802	Georgia abandoned claims to the area. The area north of the 31st parallel became part of the Mississippi Territory when it was created in 1798. Spain controlled the Mobile area until the War of 1812.
1812-1814	During the War of 1812, on 15 April 1813 American forces captured Mobile from the Spanish. General Andrew Jackson defeated the Creek Indians in several battles, including the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, 27 March 1814. Removal of the Creeks and other Indian tribes commenced and European settlers began flooding into the region, bringing African-American slaves with them.

1817	The Mississippi Territory was divided into the state of Mississippi, and the Alabama Territory at that time. The Alabama Territory was composed of the following seven counties: Baldwin, Clarke, Madison, Mobile, Monroe, Montgomery, and Washington.
1818	Twenty-two counties were established.
1819	Alabama was admitted to the Union as the 22 nd state.
1835	The treaty of New Echota was signed, which led to the removal of most of the Indian tribes, including the Cherokees from Alabama. A few Creeks and Cherokees remained in Alabama.
1861–1868	Alabama seceded from the Union, but was readmitted in 1868. Nearly 100,000 men from Alabama served in the Civil War.
1880	Almost half of the population of Alabama was of African-American descent.
1917–1918	Armed forces serving in World War I included 95,000 Alabamians. More than 6,200 were killed.
1941–1945	Approximately 288,000 men and women from Alabama served in the armed forces during World War II.
1960	More people in Alabama live in cities with a population of at least 2,500.
1990	About one quarter of the population was African-American descent.

State Histories

Sources for studying the history of Alabama are:

Memorial Record of Alabama: A Concise Account of the State's Political, Military, Professional and Industrial Progress, Together With the Personal Memoirs of Many of its People. 2 vols. Madison, Wis.: Brant and Fuller, 1893. (FHL book 976.1 H2m; film 934817; computer number 254144.)

Brown, Lynda W. *Alabama History: An Annotated Bibliography.* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1998. (FHL book 976.1 H2bL; computer number 826588.) This contains information

about American Indian tribes; European exploration and colonization; territorial and formative periods; and Antebellum, Confederate, Reconstruction, and later periods. Each chronological period is subdivided into subjects, such as education, arts, diaries, industry, migrations, and religion.

For the period to 1821 see:

Beers, Henry Putney. *French and Spanish Records of Louisiana: A Bibliographical Guide to Archive and Manuscript Sources.* Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University, 1989. (FHL book 976.3 H23b; computer number 584590.) Section III discusses the history, government, and land and church records of the area of Louisiana that is in present-day Alabama.

Pickett, Albert James. *History of Alabama and Incidentally of Georgia and Mississippi, From the Earliest Period.* Sheffield, Ala.: R.C. Randolph, 1896. (FHL book 976.1 H2p; film 924406; computer number 248036.) This book lists historical events in chronological order, from the early history to about 1820.

For 1798 to 1819, *The Territorial Papers of the United States* contain petitions, memorials, and other lists of early residents in what is now Alabama:

United States. Department of State. *The Territorial Papers of the United States.* 26 vols. National Archives Microfilm Publication, M0721. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1934–1962. (FHL book 973 N2udt; films 929376–91; computer number 210409.) See volumes five and six on FHL film 929379 for records of the Territory of Mississippi, which included present-day Alabama. These volumes cover 1798 to 1817 and include lists of residents for 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812 (lists of aliens in 1812), 1814, and 1815. Volume 18 on FHL film 929386 has records pertaining to the Territory of Alabama, including land sales, employment and dismissal, commission, power of attorney, postmaster correspondence, government business, court, election candidate, and Indian affairs records. Each volume is indexed.

Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of area families. The *United States Research Outline* (30972) "History" section

cites nationwide bibliographies of local histories which include histories of Alabama. For a statewide bibliography of local histories see:

Ward, Robert David. *Bibliography of the County Histories of Alabama*. Birmingham, Ala.: Birmingham Public Library, 1991. (FHL book 976.1 H23w; computer number 696374.)

History books are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - HISTORY
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - HISTORY
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
HISTORY

LAND AND PROPERTY

Land records are primarily used to learn where an individual lived and when he or she lived there. They often reveal other family information, such as the name of a spouse, heir, other relatives, or neighbors. They may also include information about previous residences, occupations, military service, citizenship, and so forth.

Most of the states in the United States are public domain states, which means the federal government controls the land. In state-land states, however, the state government appropriates all land within its borders. Alabama is a state-land state.

People who lived in the area that is now Alabama were governed by several different countries, states, and territories during various time periods:

- France (1710–1763)
- England (1763–1783)
- Spain (1783–1795, north of the 31st parallel, the mouth of the Yazoo River)
- Georgia (1795–1803, north of the 31st parallel)
- Spain (1783–1813, south of the 31st parallel, including Mobile)
- South Carolina (about 1783, until claim was given up in 1787)
- Mississippi Territory (1798–1817)
- Alabama Territory (1817–1819)
- Federal Government Land Sales beginning in 1806

Depending on when a person bought land, the records may be recorded under the following governments:

France (1710–1763). The original records are at the Archives Nationales in Paris. Volume one of the *American State Papers* contains some

references to persons who lived in the area before 1763:

United States. Congress. *American State Papers: Documents, Legislative and Executive of the Congress of the United States*. 38 vols. Washington, D.C.: Gales and Seaton, 1832–1861. (FHL films 899878–85; computer number 277508.) For an index to the volumes involving public lands see:

Grassroots of America: A Computerized Index to American State Papers: Land Grants and Claims 1789–1837, with other Aids to Research (Government Document Serial Set Numbers 28 Through 36). Salt Lake City: Gendex, 1972. (FHL book 973 R2ag index; fiche 6051323; computer number 271603.)

England (1763–1783). The records are at the Public Record Office in London. Transcripts of the records are on microfilms:

Mississippi Provincial Archives, 1763–1783; English Dominion: Transcripts of Archives in the Public Record Office, London, England. Jackson, Miss.: Department of Archives and History, 1969. (FHL films 899981–85; computer number 391847.) This includes lists of inhabitants at Mobile in 1764, and land records from 1763 to 1783.

After the American Revolution, those who had purchased land from the English had to file a claim with the United States Congress proving their title to the land. These records are included in volume one of the *American State Papers* (see above), pages 598–908, under “Land Claims in the Mississippi Territory, 1809.” Some claims regarding the English records are in volume eight.

Another publication listing claims derived from the British period is:

First Settlers of the Mississippi Territory. Nacogdoches, Tex.: Ericson Books, 19–?. (FHL book 976 R2f; film 1421793 item 22; fiche 6051448; computer number 212441.) This lists grants taken from the *American State Papers*, class 8, Public Lands, volume one, 1789 to 1809.

Spain (1783–1795, north of the 31st parallel, the mouth of the Yazoo River). The records are at the Archivo General De Indias in Seville, Spain. Some of the Spanish land records, 1763 to 1809, are listed in chapter one of:

Hahn, Marilyn Davis. *Old St. Stephen's Land Office Records & American State Papers, Public Land, 1768-1888*. Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1983. (FHL book 976.1 R2ha; computer number 215972.) See pages 1-10 for lists of Spanish land grants Book 1, 20 Oct. 1763-1809.

These records are also included in volume one of the *American State Papers* (see above), pages 598-908, under "Land Claims in the Mississippi Territory, 1809."

An index to the Archives of Spanish West Florida is:

Index to the Archives of Spanish West Florida, 1782-1810. New Orleans, La.: Polyanthos, 1975. (FHL book 976.3 A3a; computer number 159613.) This is an index to the 18-volume translation of the transcriptions of the Spanish Government of West Florida, District of Baton Rouge. The area that is now Alabama was once part of this Spanish-controlled region. This includes sales, powers of attorney, court actions, depositions, probates, and other information.

Feldman, Lawrence H. *Anglo-Americans in Spanish Archives: Lists of Anglo-American Settlers in the Spanish Colonies of America; A Finding Aid*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1991. (FHL book 973 X2fe; computer number 624685.) After the American Revolution many settlers rushed to settle unclaimed Spanish land. This book contains lists of residents at Mobile, 1781, 1785, 1786, 1795 and Tombecke, 1781, 1791.

Many claims that go back to the Spanish period are also listed in *First Settlers of the Mississippi Territory* cited above under "England (1763-1783)."

Georgia (1795-1802, north of the 31st parallel). Georgia claimed land in the upper portion of what is now Alabama from 1789 to 1802. See volume one, page 218 of the *American State Papers* for a list of the land companies that were formed, such as:

- The Virginia Yazoo Company
- The South Carolina Yazoo Company
- The Georgia Company (middle present-day Alabama)
- The Upper Mississippi Company (upper western area)
- The Tennessee Company (upper eastern area)
- The Georgia Mississippi Company

The *Historical and Genealogical Atlas of North America* by Richard C. Jackson mentioned in the "Maps" section of this outline, has several maps of early Alabama. A map showing the location of land belonging to the Georgia Company, Tennessee Company, and Upper Mississippi Company is on page 93. Page 36 has a map from approximately 1787 showing the trading paths from Georgia to present-day Alabama. Records concerning purchases of these Georgia lands have been published in volume one, pages 215-246 of the *American State Papers*, cited above under "France."

If there is an indication that your ancestors were from Georgia, it may be useful to search the various statewide indexes to Georgia land grants. These indexes are mentioned in the "Land and Property" section of the *Georgia Research Outline* (31047) and may help to determine where in Georgia your ancestor resided.

Spain (1783-1813, south of the 31st parallel, including Mobile). The Spanish records are cited above under "Spain."

South Carolina (from approximately 1783 to 1787). South Carolina claimed lands in what is now northern Alabama. This was known as the "twelve-mile strip." There do not appear to be many records concerning land sales by South Carolina.

If records indicate that your ancestor may have come from South Carolina, it may be helpful to search South Carolina statewide land grant indexes. These indexes are mentioned in the *South Carolina Research Outline* (31077) "Land and Property" section.

Mississippi Territory (1798-1817) and Alabama Territory (1817-1819). In 1783, after the Revolutionary War, the United States gained control of the Mississippi and Alabama Territories. Those holding land at that time were required to file proof of ownership. The land claims for the Mississippi Territory are published in volume one of the *American State Papers*, pages 594-908, and indexed in *Grassroots of America*, cited above under "France".

Another publication listing early settlers (1768 to 1818) in what is now Alabama is *First Settlers of the Mississippi Territory*, mentioned above under "England." An index is included.

For 1798 to 1817, volumes five and six of *The Territorial Papers of the United States*, cited in the "History" section of this outline, contain records of the Territory of Mississippi which included present-day Alabama. These records include petitions, memorials, the 1809 census, and other lists of early residents in what is now Alabama. Also, volume 18 has records of the Territory of Alabama from 1817 to 1819. Film 929379 has volumes five and six. Volume 18 is on film 874232, item 2.

Federal Government Land Sales (beginning 1806). When the United States acquired the area, unsettled land in the public domain became available and was eventually sold by the Federal government. Thirteen land offices were established, the first in 1806. When the land offices were closed, records were forwarded to Washington, D.C. Copies were sent to the Alabama Department of Archives and History. See the *United States Research Outline* (30972), "Land and Property" section for instructions on how to order copies from the textual reference branch of the National Archives (the address is given below).

Pre-1908 General Land Office records have been indexed:

United States. Department of the Interior. Bureau of Land Management. *Alabama Pre-1908 Patents: Homesteads, Cash Entry, Creek Indian Treaty and Choctaw Indian Scrip*. Springfield, Va.: BLM Eastern States, 1996. (FHL compact disc no. 46; computer number 788984.)

Land Records: AL, AR, FL, LA, MI, MN, OH, WI. Novato, Calif.: Brøderbund Software, 1996. (FHL compact disc no. 9 pt. 255; computer number 793054.) This index lists the name of the patentee, document and accession number, acreage, land office, and the location of the land.

Patents, Tract Books, and Land Entry Case Files

The Bureau of Land Management has original patents, tract books, and township plats. Copies of some of these tract books and early records are in the Department of Archives and History. The tract books for 1785 to about 1935 are on microfilm at the Family History Library:

United States. Bureau of Land Management. *Tract Books*. Washington, D.C.: Records Improvement, Bureau of Land Management, 1957. (On 1265 FHL films beginning with 1445277; computer number 473821.) The

records for Alabama are on films 1445277-351. The *Land Records* compact disc above or the web site can help you learn information you need, such as the land office and the range and township to use these records. The records list the buyer's name, the amount of property, price of the property, date of purchase, and certificate number.

The original tract books for the area east of the Mississippi are at:

Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States Office
7450 Boston Blvd.
Springfield, VA 22153-3121
Telephone: 703-440-1600
Fax: 703-440-1609.
Internet address: www.glorerecords.blm.gov
E-mail: records@es.blm.gov

Land entry case files from 1785 to 1908 consist of the papers created during the process of transferring public land to individuals. They are often rich in genealogical information and may include depositions, receipts, affidavits, citizenship records, evidence of military service, and more. It is important to obtain the land entry file if you can. The files are arranged by the name of the land office and the type of certificate, certificate number, name of the certificate holder, and legal description of the land (township and page.) A completed NATF Form 84 must accompany requests for the case files. Files are available from:

Textual Reference Branch
National Archives and Records Adm.
7th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20408
Telephone: 202-501-5395
Fax: 202-219-6273
Internet address: www.nara.gov

The records of 11 land offices have been abstracted and published by Marilyn Davis Hahn Barefield: Cahaba, Centre, Demopolis, Elba, Huntsville, Lebanon, Mardisville, Montgomery, St. Stephen's, Sparta, and Tuscaloosa. Each book covers varying years between 1768 and 1888. Military warrant records are also included. To find these books, see the Author/Title Search of the Family History Library Catalog under Marilyn Barefield's name. Each volume is well indexed.

County Land Records

Once a parcel of land was transferred from government to private ownership, it may have

stayed in the family for generations or for only a few months. It may have been subdivided, sold, and resold, with each transaction requiring new records. It is likely that one of your ancestors was recorded in person-to-person transactions like these. These records may offer clues such as the given name of a spouse, a previous residence, names of children, or death information. Land records also offer clues to maiden names if a father deeded property to his daughter upon marriage. Witnesses and neighbors may also be in-laws or relatives. It is important to trace the purchase and sale (or the acquisition and disposition) of each parcel of land your ancestor owned.

The original records are filed in the Judge of Probates's office. As new counties were formed and boundaries changed, transactions were recorded in the new county, but the parent county retained the records previously created.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of county land records for all except Morgan County, dating from when the county was established until about the 1900s to the 1920s.

Choctaw Lands Allotted East of the Mississippi River (1837–1906)

The Choctaw Indians who chose to remain in the east could receive land allotments or, later, scrip for public lands in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, or Arkansas. The records are in the National Archives, Records Group 75. These are the records of the claims commission connected with the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. The records of scrip certificates surrendered for land are in the Bureau of Land Management, Records Group 49. Most of these records have been microfilmed. A book that lists those who filed for land allotments or scrip is:

Goss, Joe R. *A Complete Roll of All Choctaw Claimants and Their Heirs Existing Under the Treaties Between the United States and the Choctaw Nation as Far as Shown by the Records of the United States and of the Choctaw Nation*. 1889. Reprint, Conway, Ark.: Oldbuck Press, 1992. (FHL book 970.3 C451g; computer number 662362.)

A helpful history of the Choctaw people from the 1500s to about 1930 is:

Debo, Angie. *The Rise and Fall of the Choctaw Republic*. The Civilizations of the American Indians Series; 6. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1961. (FHL book 970.3 C451d;

computer number 221032.) The book contains an extensive bibliography and a map showing Choctaw land cessions between 1801 and 1830 in Alabama and Mississippi.

Land and property records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - LAND AND PROPERTY
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - LAND AND
PROPERTY

MAPS

Several types of maps are useful for genealogists. Some give historical background of the area or show migration routes such as roads, rivers, and railroads. Topographical maps show physical features, such as creeks and hills, and man-made features, such as roads, cemeteries, and churches. Plat and land ownership maps and other types of maps are described in the "Maps" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972). Many maps are in published atlases. In the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog, atlases and maps are both listed under the heading "Maps."

The Auburn University Library Special Collections Department has an extensive collection of maps of Alabama. The Family History Library has a few historical maps and general highway maps.

Maps for 1800, 1808, 1809, 1812, 1815, 1818, 1820, 1823, 1825, 1830, 1832, 1840, 1850, 1870, and 1903 are included in Marilyn Davis Barefield's *Researching in Alabama: A Genealogical Guide* cited in the "For Further Reading" section of this outline on pages 24–39.

Maps showing county boundaries, rivers, railroads, townships, roads, mountains, valleys, and other geographic features for Alabama for 1823, 1838, 1862, and 1960 and a map showing the Alabama area during the Revolutionary War period are in the following book:

Jackson, Richard C. *Historical and Genealogical Atlas of North America*. Provo, Utah: Gentech Press, 1974. (FHL book 973 E3j; film 908951 item 2; computer number 266985.) See pages 36 and 93.

Two statewide atlases are:

Dodd, Donald B. *Historical Atlas of Alabama*. Tuscaloosa, Ala.: University of Alabama Press, 1974. (FHL 976.1 E7d; computer number 248021.) Included are maps that show the location of forts, Indian land cessions with their dates, and county boundaries from 1819 to 1972.

Alabama: Atlas of Historical County Boundaries. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1996. (FHL 976.1 E3s; computer number 785282.) This book has maps showing when and where each county changed boundaries.

In the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog, atlases and maps may be found under:

ALABAMA - MAPS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - MAPS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - MAPS

MILITARY RECORDS

Military records identify those who served in the military or who were eligible for service. Evidence that your ancestor served may be found in family traditions, census records, naturalization records, biographies, cemetery records, and records of veterans' organizations. Alabama has participated in wars from the Revolutionary War to the present. Military enlistment and service records may give names, residences throughout the life of the family, rank, unit, dates of service, death date, and cause of death. Pension records often provide the soldier's birth date and place, widow's name, the date and place of marriage, and names and ages of children. The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

The Department of Archives and History has the most complete collection of Alabama military records. Their collection includes military records and soldiers' correspondence from all wars in which Alabama has participated.

Many federal military records of Alabama are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and the National Archives—Southeast Region (East Point, Georgia).

Revolutionary War (1775–1783)

If a person supported the Revolution, he may be mentioned in records as a rebel, patriot, or Whig. Those who opposed the Revolution were Loyalists or Tories.

Patriots. Service and pension records and indexes for patriots are available on film at the National Archives and the Family History Library. See the *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) for these sources.

For lists of Revolutionary War soldiers from Alabama, see:

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Revolutionary War Service, 1776–1783*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1986. (FHL film 1462786 item 2; computer number 483250.) These alphabetical three-by-five cards mention the soldier's (or widow's) name, rank, unit, and enlistment information. They also often list the names of the soldier's parents, spouse, and children and give his birth date and place. The source of information may be given.

Gandrud, Pauline Jones. *Alabama Soldiers: Revolution, War of 1812, and Indian Wars*. 20 vols. Hot Springs, Ark.: B.J. McLane, 1975–. (FHL book 976.1 M2g; computer number 207541.) Volume one starts with surnames beginning with A. Volume 20 ends with the surnames M. The series will continue through surnames with Z. The books often list service, pension, census, land ownership, and probate information, with names of children and sometimes grandchildren.

Julich, Louise Milam. *Roster of Revolutionary Soldiers and Patriots in Alabama*. Montgomery, Ala.: Parchment Press, 1979. (FHL book 976.1 M2j; computer number 206336.) This source often provides information about military service, burial, pension, residence, spouse, children, parents, and source references.

Owen, Thomas M. *Revolutionary Soldiers in Alabama*. 1911. Reprint, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1975. (FHL book 976.1 M23a 1975; film 928157 item 4; computer number 248041. The 1911 edition is also on FHL film 962704 item 3; computer number 236599.) This book lists Revolutionary War veterans who lived in Alabama. The information was compiled from the pension roll of 1833–1834, the 1840 census of pensioners, local histories, tombstones, and obituaries.

Lineages for Revolutionary War soldiers listing descendants and spouses, are found in:

Black, Clifford D. *An Index to Alabama Society Sons of the American Revolution, Members and Their Ancestors, 1903–1996*. Rainsville, Ala.:

C.D. Black, 1996. (FHL book 976.1 C42b; film 2055307 item 9; computer number 781216.) This book contains about 15,000 names and is fully indexed. It includes the National Sons of the American Revolution number. (See the *United States Research Outline* [30972]), "Military Records" section on the Revolutionary War for SAR application film numbers.) This book also gives birth dates for descendants, birth and death dates for each soldier, and the state of birth and death for each soldier. .

See also the *U. S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) for other Revolutionary War records.

Loyalists. For Loyalist records see the "Military Records" section of the *Canada Research Outline* (34545).

War of 1812 (1812–1815)

For records of War of 1812 soldiers, see *Alabama Soldiers: Revolution, War of 1812, and Indian Wars* by Pauline Jones Gandrud mentioned above.

War of 1812 Pensioners Living in Alabama During the 1880s. Cullman, Ala.: Gregath, 1982. (FHL book 976.1 M2w; computer number 399838.) This book gives the name of the soldier or his widow, the certificate number, and residence.

Indian Wars (1812–1814)

A card index of Indian War soldiers is:

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Indian War Service, 1812–1814.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL film 1462786 item 3; computer number 483251.) This includes alphabetically arranged, typed cards for the Indian wars of 1813–1814 and the War of 1812. The films include each soldier's name, age, residence, rank, and date enrolled and the date and amount of his pension payments (usually for the years of 1833–1834).

War of Texas Independence (1835–1836)

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Texas War with Mexico, 1835–1836.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL film 1462788 item 2; computer number 483254.) These cards list, in alphabetical order, the names of Alabama soldiers who served in the War of Texas Independence. The cards contain information about rank, company, regiment, and sometimes enlistment place, dates served,

wounds, age, death date, and land grant entitlement. They include the source of information.

Indian Wars (1836–1838)

Indexes to the compiled military service records are available for:

Creek War (1836–1837)

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Indian War, 1836.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1986. (FHL films 1462787 item 2 (A–L) and 1462788 (M–Z); computer number 483253.) These cards list the soldier's name, rank, and company; information from muster rolls and petitions; letters from authorities, death reports, requisitions, minutes of meetings, accounts of battles, and enrollments. The county of residence also may be mentioned.

United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the Creek War in Organizations from the State of Alabama.* National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0244. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1957. (FHL films 880845–46; computer number 278523.)

Florida War (1836–1838)

United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the Florida War in Organizations from the State of Alabama.* National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0245. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1957. (FHL film 880847; computer number 432754.) A transcription of this index is:

Achee, Benjamin. *Index for Compiled Service Records, Alabama Units—Florida War.* N.p., 1971. (FHL book 976.1 A1 no. 6; film 908132 item 2; computer number 246515.) This book generally lists the soldier's name, company, battalion, rank, and Alabama county.

Soldiers Serving in the Cherokee Removal (1838)

United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the Cherokee Removal in Organizations from the State of Alabama.* National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0243. Washington, D.C.: National Archives,

1957. (FHL film 368685; computer number 388837.) The Cherokees were removed to the Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma. The compiled military service records have not been microfilmed, but are available at the National Archives.

Mexican War (1846–1848)

To find information about soldiers serving from Alabama see:

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Mexican War Service, 1846–1847*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1462788 item 3 (A–L), and 1462789 (M–Z); computer number 483255.) The cards may include name, rank, muster date and place, regiment, company, and sometimes muster out or medical discharge information.

Alabama Volunteers in the Mexican War, 1846–1848. Richardson, Tex.: Descendants of Mexican War Veterans, 1996. (FHL book 976.1 M2bs; computer number 779607.) This contains the names of the soldiers, plus historical information about the war and the Alabama companies.

Civil War (1861–1865)

Alabama soldiers served in both the Union and Confederate armies. Indexes and compiled military service records for both armies are available on microfilm.

Jones, Ken. *The Civil War in Alabama*. [Internet site]. N.p., 1997. 19 November 1999. [cited 17 March 2000]. Available at www.tarleton.edu/~kjones/alabama.html. This site lists a yearly account of people, events, and battles in the Civil War and includes links to other web sites about these events.

Union Soldiers

For information about Alabama Union soldiers see:

United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Alabama*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0263. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1958. (FHL film 880848; computer number 278431.) This gives each soldier's name, his rank, and the unit in which he served.

For microfilms of the actual compiled service records indexed by the source above see:

United States. Record and Pension Office. *Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Alabama*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0276. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1959. (FHL films 1276611–20; computer number 110833.) The records are arranged alphabetically.

Pension records for Union veterans are available at the National Archives. For an index see:

United States. Veteran's Administration. *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, T0288. Washington, D.C.: Veterans Administration Publications Service, 1953. (FHL films beginning with 540757–1300; computer number 245945.)

Confederate Soldiers

For service information see:

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Confederate Service Record, 1861–1865*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1986–1987. (On 67 FHL films beginning with 1462785; computer number 482117.) These index cards provide name, rank, company, regiment, promotions, enlistment date and place, re-enlistments, engagements, wounds and hospital records, date of capture or discharge, prison records, if a substitute was furnished, remarks, and the source of the information. They also may contain death date, soldier's pension number, physical description, age, widow's name, her pension number, her county of residence, and sometimes letters to relatives.

United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Alabama*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0374. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1962. (FHL films 821949–97; computer number 328758.) This is an index to the compiled service records listed below.

United States. Record and Pension Office. *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Alabama*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0311. Washington, D.C.:

National Archives, 1961–1962. (FHL films 880330–837; computer number 379341.) For the index, see the source above. These films include muster rolls, returns, rosters, payrolls, hospital records, and Union prison registers. The records are arranged by unit, then alphabetically.

For pension records see:

Alabama Pension Commission (Alabama). *Confederate Pension Applications, ca. 1880–1930s*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1987. (On 276 FHL films beginning with 1502476; computer number 482000.) The soldiers' or sailors' applications are in alphabetical order and contain: name, rank, company, regiment, date and place wounded, post office address, occupation, taxable property, affidavits of witnesses, a schedule of property (number of acres), and a list of personal property (items and value).

After 23 September 1919, a more detailed form called for the soldier's exact age; how long he had lived in the state; when he had married; names, ages, and occupations of living children; and where the veteran was last registered to vote.

A veteran's widow who applied for a pension after 1914 used a reclassification form that asked for her exact birth date. Beginning in 1920, the pension applications contain more information such as the widow's name, post office, number on pension roll, with whom she was living, where and when she was born (month, day, year), the name of her father, his address, and when and where he died. She also had to give the name of her husband, when he moved to Alabama, when he enlisted, a list of his property and yearly income, and when and where they married. She also had to state whether she was living with the veteran, divorced, or widowed. If applicable she provided information about when and where he died or if he lived in another state.

In 1907, 1921, and 1927, the state prepared lists of Confederate veteran pensioners. These records are described in the "Census" section of this outline.

Additional Confederate pension records are:

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Administrators of Confederate Soldiers, 1862–1864*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL film 1653243 item 2; computer number 552580.) These claims were filed by family members after the death of their husband or son during the war. The claims

were usually filed six months to one year after the death of the soldier. The claims are at the National Archives.

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Applications for Relief by Maimed Confederate Soldiers*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL films 1653552–53; computer number 552573.) These records mention the soldier's company and regiment, date and place when wounded, and often the soldier's occupation.

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Parents of Confederate Soldiers, 1862–1864*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL film 1653242; computer number 552577.) These records contain an alphabetical listing with name, service, rank, company, county, father's or mother's name, and date the claim was filed.

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Widows of Confederate Soldiers, 1862–1864*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL film 1653242 item 2, surnames A–S; film 1653243 surnames T–Z; computer number 552578.) The cards list the widow's name; the soldier's name; his rank, company, and regiment; the place and date the claim was filed (1862–1864); and the source of information.

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Miscellaneous Family Relationships of Confederate Soldiers, 1862–1864*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL film 1653243 item 3; computer number 552582.) This gives the name of the soldier; his rank, company, and unit number of Alabama infantry; the county in Alabama; the date the claim was filed; the name of the relative; and the degree of family relationship.

Presidential Pardons of Former Confederates, 1863–1868

From 1863 to 1868, former Confederates could apply for pardon from the federal government. The voting rights and citizenship of former Confederates were restored when they applied for pardon and signed an Amnesty Oath. In August 1865, stations were appointed in each county in Alabama where men and a few women could sign the Amnesty Oath. The oaths list only the names of the persons who signed and are often found in county records. On 6 June 1868, general amnesty

became universal. The 1865–1867 records are available on microfilms:

United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Case Files of Applications from Former Confederates for Presidential Pardons* ("Amnesty Papers"). National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1003. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1976. (FHL films 1578739–50 for Alabama; computer number 462125.) Film 1578739 has a name index. These handwritten applications from 1865 to 1867 contain names of persons applying for pardon, the county of residence, date of application, a list of property owned and its value, and often their age and occupation. Sometimes the applications include their state of birth and whether they were married (spouse's name not given). A few African-Americans in Alabama took this loyalty oath. The Alabama pardon applications are in alphabetical order.

Some of these records have been published and are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - MILITARY RECORDS

Histories of Alabama Military Units

An important inventory for finding Civil War military histories is:

A Guide to the Microfiche Edition of Civil War Unit Histories: Regimental Histories and Personal Narratives. Part 1, Confederate States of America and Border States. Bethesda, Md.: University Publications of America, 1992. (FHL book 973 M2cwu pt. 1; computer number 619021.) Alabama units are listed on pages 15–19. The library has the large microfiche collection described in this guide. Use the library catalog to find individual items. This may include correspondence, diaries, memoirs, and regimental histories published before 1920. The guide shows the unit name, counties where it was raised, author, title, publication information, number of pages, and source repository. This guide includes an author index and a major engagements index.

Brief histories of Confederate units can be found in:

Brewer, Willis. *Alabama: Her History, Resources, War Record, and Public Men from 1540 to 1872.* Civil War Unit Histories; AL: 5–12.

Montgomery, Ala.: Barrett & Brown, 1872. (FHL book 976.1 H2b; film 934818 item 3; computer number 248023.) This book provides the county the captain is from for most regiments.

Confederate Military History: A Library of Confederate States History, in Seventeen Volumes, Written by Distinguished Men of the South, and Edited by Gen. Clement A. Evans of Georgia. Extended ed. Wilmington, N.C.: Broadfoot Publishing, 1987–1988. (FHL book 975 M2e 1978; computer number 474265.) Volume eight contains information on the Alabama units. This is a reprint of the 1899 volume published by the Confederate Publishing Company, with additional material.

Sifakis, Stewart. *Compendium of the Confederate Armies.* 10 vols. New York: Facts of File, 1992–1995. (FHL book 975 M2ss; computer number 534718.) Volume one has information on Alabama units.

Spanish-American War (1898–1899)

Alabama. Adjutant General's Office. *Muster Rolls of Alabama Volunteers in the Spanish-American War of 1898.* 1899. Reprint, Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1989. (FHL film 1404249; computer number 494982.) This lists soldiers in the three Alabama Regiments. The lists are alphabetical by company and give mustered-in date (city and state), mustered-out date, rank, and names of those who died.

World War I (1917–1918)

World War I draft registration cards for men ages 18 to 45 may list the person's address, birth date, birthplace (city and state), race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. All men ages 18 to 45 were required to register. However, not all registrants served in the war. For these Alabama records, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *Alabama, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.* National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987–1988. (On 87 FHL films beginning with 1509347; computer number 756730.)

Knowing an individual's name and residence at the time of registration will help you find his draft card. The cards are arranged alphabetically by

county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board. The city of Birmingham had six. Find the ancestor's street address in a Birmingham 1917 or 1918 city directory, then see the map of Birmingham, which shows the draft board registration district boundaries:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1989. (FHL film 1498803; computer number 702779.) Birmingham is the third map on the film.

There are also Alabama World War I service records, prepared after the war:

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *World War I Service Records, 1918–1919*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (On 33 FHL films beginning with 1644084; computer number 552592.) These records are arranged alphabetically and usually contain the person's name, race, residence, place of birth (city and state), age or date of birth, enlistment or induction date, service and rank information, wounds, date of service overseas, discharge date, disability, and remarks.

For a published roster of soldiers who died in the war see:

Haulsee, W. M. *Soldiers of the Great War*. 3 vols. Washington, D.C.: Soldiers Record Pub. Association, 1920. (FHL book 973 M23s; fiche 6051244; computer number 271442.) Alabama soldiers are listed in volume one, pages 71–95. This section gives the soldier's name, residence, rank, and cause of death, and includes pictures.

World War II (1941–1945)

Combat Connected Naval Casualties, World War II, by States. 2 vols. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1946. (FHL book 973 M23un; computer number 272022.) This source is alphabetically arranged by state, then within the state by dead, missing, wounded, Prisoner of War (POW), died or killed while a POW, and POWs released.

Militia Records

Besides regular service, Alabama men served in the militia:

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Territorial Militia and Civil Service, 1818*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1986. (FHL film 1462787; computer number 483252.) This source includes commissions and military appointments for the Alabama Territory.

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Alabama State Militia, 1820–1865*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1986. (FHL films 1462797–807; computer number 483446.) These records give the soldier's name, company, battalion, and regiment, and include names of witnesses.

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Alabama State Troops (Militia), 1873–1898*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1986. (FHL films 1462792–96; computer number 483417.) The cards are in alphabetical order and may include the person's date of enlistment, rank, company, regiment, age, and length of service.

Military records are listed in the Locality Search of Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - MILITARY HISTORY
ALABAMA - MILITARY RECORDS
ALABAMA - MILITARY RECORDS -
[WAR]
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - MILITARY
RECORDS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
MILITARY RECORDS

MINORITIES

Most research on minorities consists of consulting the same types of records as research for non-minorities. The purpose of this section is to identify a few special sources that influence research on minority families in Alabama.

Records and histories of minorities and ethnic groups may provide clues to immigrant origins, migration information, and previous residences. Some records, histories, and periodicals of African-Americans, Germans, Jews, and others are available at the Family History Library.

African-American

Resources for African-American research fall into two periods: pre- and post-Civil War. Post-Civil War research consists of consulting the same record types you would use to research non-African-Americans. Pre-Civil War records

consist of slave importation declarations, plantation records, emancipation records, apprenticeship bonds for freedmen, Alabama hiring practices, census records, plantation owners' family records, church and cemetery records, military records, and Alabama court records.

An excellent source is the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company. This company was created to assist African-American soldiers of the Civil War and freed slaves. Freedman's Savings and Trust Company signature cards or registers from 3 March 1865 to 25 July 1874 may list the name of the depositor, date of entry, age, birthplace, residence, complexion, name of employer or occupation, wife or husband's name, death information, children's names, name of father and mother, brothers' and sisters' names, remarks, and signature. Early books sometimes contained the name of the former master or mistress and the name of the plantation. Copies of death certificates were sometimes attached to the entries. The collection is organized alphabetically by state, then city where the bank was located, then date the account was established, then account number.

Alabama had a branch of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company in Huntsville and Mobile. In each city depositors are listed by account number. The records are in:

Freedman's Savings and Trust Company (Huntsville, Alabama). *Registers of Signatures of Depositors, 1865-1874*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0816. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1969. (FHL film 928571; computer number 738119.)

Freedman's Savings and Trust Company (Mobile, Alabama). *Registers of Signatures of Depositors, 1867-1874*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0816. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1969. (FHL film 928572; computer number 738120.)

Freedman's Bureau. Additional government records are:

United States. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. *Records of the Assistant Commissioner for Alabama, 1865-1869*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0809. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1969. (FHL films 1612338-60; computer number 500477.) These reports primarily contain statistical and historical information. For 1865 and 1866, the section on abandoned and confiscated lands (film 1612358) includes the

names of the owners of the plantations or homes that were abandoned, confiscated, or leased. It gives the county and location, a description of the house, the number of acres owned, and the number of cabins of former slaves. These films do not appear to contain the names of former slaves.

The separate Freedman's Bureau records do not usually name relatives or give genealogical information. They can be found in the Family History Library Catalog Subject Search under:

FREEDMEN - ALABAMA

Slaves are sometimes mentioned in deeds (see "Land and Property"), wills (see "Probate Records"), tax records (see "Taxation"), and court order books (see "Court Records") under their owner's name. A few parish registers (see "Church Records") list slaves who attended church with their masters.

A record was made of men of African descent who served in the Confederate Army:

Alabama. Department of Archives and History. *Negroes in the Confederate Army, 1860-1907*. (FHL film 1653243 item 4; computer number 552583.) This source lists the name of the soldier and his duty. It may indicate the name of the slave owner, the date of pay, master's place of residence, where the soldier served in the military, and his military expenses.

Plantation Records. Some plantation records mention slaves. The Family History Library has many plantation records on microfilm. These records are described in a series of booklets by Kenneth M. Stampp. Guides for Series A-M are available at the Family History Library:

Stampp, Kenneth M., ed. *A Guide to Records of Antebellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War: Series A-M, Selections from the Manuscript Department, Duke University Library*. Frederick, Md.: University Publications of America, 1986. (FHL book 975 H2sm; each series has its own computer number.) The Family History Library has microfilms of most of the records described in the guide. Alabama plantation records are scattered throughout.

For example, the booklet for Series F describes records of many plantations in Alabama and other states of the Deep South. The records were

microfilmed at Duke University, in Durham, North Carolina. They are:

Records of Ante-bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution Through the Civil War: Series F, Selections from the Manuscript Department, Duke University Library. Frederick, Md.: University Publications of America, 1986–1987. (On 84 FHL films beginning with 1549774; computer number 571554.)

Biographies. Several biographical dictionaries, compendia, and histories may contain information you need, for example:

Black Biographical Dictionaries, 1790–1950. Alexandria, Va.: Chadwyck-Healy, 1980. (On 1070 FHL fiche beginning with 6049870; computer number 546520.) This publication is sometimes referred to as “The Black Biography Project.” Three of the sources included in this collection are:

Bothe, Charles Octavius. *The Cyclopedia of the Colored Baptists of Alabama: Their Leaders and Their Work.* Birmingham, Ala.: Birmingham Alabama Publishing, 1895. (FHL fiche 6078965 [set of 3]; computer number 546520.) This book contains biographies, birth dates, parents’ names, and sometimes pictures. It also provides information on associations and state conventions.

Mixon, Winfield Henri. *History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Alabama, with Biographical Sketches.* Selma, Ala.: A.M.E. Church Sunday School Union, 1902. (FHL fiche 6079113 [set of 3]; computer number 546520.) This book provides pictures, church minutes and history, and speeches. There is no index.

Moorman, Joseph H. and E. L. Barrett. *Leaders of the Colored Race in Alabama.* Mobile, Ala.: News Publishing, [198–?]. (FHL fiche 6079115 [set of 2]; computer number 546520.) This source contains biographical sketches with birth dates, educational information, a history of each minister’s service, and a history of churches. It includes an index.

For a history of slavery in Alabama, see:

Sellers, James Benson. *Slavery in Alabama.* Tuscaloosa, Ala.: University of Alabama Press, 1950, 1994. (FHL book 976.1 F2s; computer

number 735582.) This 426 page book includes a bibliography, on pages 399–409.

Records of African-Americans may be listed as “colored” in birth, marriage and death records. See the “Vital Records” section of this outline for those records.

Italian Immigrants

Italian immigrants settled in Birmingham in the early 20th century. For a list of books and articles about these families, see *Alabama History: An Annotated Bibliography* mentioned in the “History” section of this outline.

See also the “Minorities” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for additional resources.

Other records and histories of ethnic, racial, and religious groups in Alabama are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - MINORITIES
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - MINORITIES
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
MINORITIES

You will also find records in the Subject Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

AFRO-AMERICANS - ALABAMA

NATIVE RACES

Many tribes lived in the area that is now Alabama, mainly Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, and Creeks. Below are several histories and published records.

Most American Indians in Alabama were forced to go to the Indian Territory (now a part of Oklahoma) in the 1830s. A few remained in Alabama. The Family History Library’s *Oklahoma Research Outline* (31073), has information about the five civilized tribes and their records in Oklahoma.

General histories with information about the events involving the American Indians in Alabama are:

Pickett, Albert James. *History of Alabama and Incidentally of Georgia and Mississippi, From the Earliest Period.* Sheffield, Ala.: R.C. Randolph, 1896. (FHL book 976.1 H2p; film 924406; computer number 248036.) This book

gives a chronological history of the events affecting the American Indians to about 1820.

Young, Mary Elizabeth. *Redskins, Ruffleshirts and Rednecks: Indian Allotments in Alabama and Mississippi 1830–1860*. The Civilization of the American Indian Series. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1961. (FHL book 970.1 Y86r; computer number 511952.) This book describes the opening up and sale of Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Creek Indian lands until about the 1840s. An excellent bibliography is found at the end of the book.

Creeks

Some published sources with information about the Creeks are:

Snider, Billie Ford. *Full Name Indexes, Eastern Creek Indians East of the Mississippi*. Pensacola, Fla.: Antique Compiling, 1993. (FHL book 970.3 C861sb; fiche 6126087; computer number 729174.) This source lists ancestors of the Eastern Creeks living in 1814 and descendants to about 1972. The final chapter contains a detailed history of the Creeks from the 1600s to 1973 and offers suggestions for Eastern Creek Indian ancestral research.

Stiggins, George. *Creek Indian History: A Historical Narrative of the Genealogy, Traditions and Downfall of the Ispocoga or Creek Indian Tribe of Indians*. Birmingham, Ala.: Birmingham Public Library Press, 1989. (FHL book 970.3 C861s; computer number 638336.) A bibliography is found on pages 166–70.

Rolls were prepared in 1832 of the Lower Creeks and the Upper Creeks. They contain the names of principal chiefs and heads of households, where they resided, number of people in the household and whether they owned slaves:

Abbott, Thomas J. *Creek Census of 1832 (Lower Creeks)*. Laguna Hills, Calif.: Histree, 1987. (FHL book 970.3 C861a; computer number 461489.) This is indexed by name.

Parsons, Benjamin S. *Creek Census of 1832 (Upper Creeks)*. Laguna Hills, Calif.: Histree, 1987. (FHL book 970.3 C861pa; computer number 594470.) This is indexed by name.

Cherokees

There are many sources with information about the Cherokees. For example, see:

Allen, Maud Bliss. *Census Records and Cherokee Muster Rolls*. Washington: n.p., 1935. (FHL book 970.1 A1 no. 54; film 908999 item 2; computer number 211105.) This source contains the Cherokee census of 1835 of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Two publications listing Cherokees east of the Mississippi in 1835 are:

Tyner, James W. *Those Who Cried: The 16,000: A Record of the Individual Cherokees Listed in the United States Official Census of the Cherokee Nation Conducted in 1835*. N.p.: Chi-ga-u, 1974. (FHL book 970.3 C424tj; computer number 523053.) Non-Cherokee census takers in 1835 made lists of Cherokees in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. There are some errors because they did not understand the native languages. The government defined a person as an Indian if he or she had one-quarter degree of Indian blood. The book is indexed and has excellent maps for that period.

This book provides the name of the head of the household and the number of whites and full-, half-, or quarter-blood Indians in the home. It also shows occupations, number of slaves owned, whether the people read English or Cherokee, and may mention if they owned a home, farm, or mill.

United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs. *Census Roll, 1835, of the Cherokee Indians East of the Mississippi and Index to the Roll, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, Georgia*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, T0496. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1960. (FHL film 833322; computer number 73562.)

A list is available of the Cherokees living in Alabama in 1851:

Siler, David W. *The Eastern Cherokees, A Census of the Cherokee Nation in North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia in 1851*. Cottonport, La.: Polyanthus, 1972. (FHL book 970.3 C424sd; computer number 214971.) This list contains the names of each person's father, mother, and children, with their ages and relationship, for De Kalb, Jackson, and Marshall Counties. An index is included.

For a history of the Cherokees to about 1835, and a map showing the Cherokee towns in the Alabama area, see:

Malone, Henry Thompson. *Cherokees of the Old South: A People in Transition*. Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 1956. (FHL book 970.3 C424ma; computer number 20899.) See the maps before the preface. At the end of the book there is a bibliography.

Additional Cherokee Records

United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs. Cherokee Agency. *Records of the Cherokee Agency in Tennessee, 1801–1835*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0208. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1952. (FHL films 1024418–31; computer number 73955.) These records deal with the entire Cherokee Nation. They contain information about passes given to people during 1801 to 1804 allowing them to go through the Cherokee lands. These records also mention claims filed 1816 to 1833 and include the names of Army officers at posts; unauthorized settlements on Indian lands; land office records; and names of traders, settlers, missionaries, chiefs, and members of the tribe. See the introduction at the beginning of the first film to learn about the contents of these records. Many individuals are listed, however, there is no index.

United States. Office of Indian Affairs. *Letters Received, 1824–1881; Registers of Letters Received, 1824–1880*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0018, M0234. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1942, 1956. (On 1088 FHL films beginning with 1638620; computer number 511653.) There are letters in this collection pertaining to each of the major tribes, but they are not indexed.

Choctaws

An 1831 list of Choctaws in Alabama and Mississippi is in:

American State Papers: Documents, Legislative and Executive of the Congress of the United States cited under the subheading France (1710–1763) in the “Land and Property” section of this outline. Volume seven, on FHL film 944499 item 2, pages 1–140, has the 1831 Armstrong roll of Choctaws owning farms who were entitled to receive land under the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek of 1830. The volume is indexed. These records are like a census, listing

head of family, the number of males over 16, number of males and females under 10, number of acres, and location.

Chickasaw

For a history of the Chickasaw nation, see:

Malone, James H. *The Chickasaw Nation: A Short Sketch of A Noble People*. Louisville, Ky.: John P. Morton, 1922. (FHL book 970.3 C432m; computer number 670334.) A map at the end of the book shows the Mississippi and Alabama lands ceded by the Chickasaws in 1835.

Bibliography for Published Books and Articles

The book *Alabama History: An Annotated Bibliography* by Lynda W. Brown mentioned in the “History” section of this outline contains sections on the American Indian tribes of Alabama.

American Indian records are listed in the Subject Search of the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the tribe, such as:

CHEROKEE INDIANS
CHICKASAW INDIANS
CHOCTAW INDIANS
CREEK INDIANS

Records of American Indians can also be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - NATIVE RACES

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Various types of records were created during the naturalization process, including declarations of intention, petitions, and oaths of allegiance. Each record in the process can give different details about the person, such as age, country of birth, ethnic background, date and port of arrival, the name of the ship, previous residences, or current address.

Records for earlier years usually contain less information than those after 1906, when the federal court system for naturalization was revised. Details such as birth date and place, physical description, and marital status may be given in these later records. See the *United States Research Outline*

(30972) for a more complete discussion of the naturalization process and the records created during the process.

Naturalization records have been filed in city, county, state, and U.S. district courts. Few of these courts kept separate registers of naturalization. Entries of naturalization, like other court actions, are scattered throughout the various court minute books, especially in the records of the county circuit courts.

Many naturalizations were handled by the federal courts, especially the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Alabama. Their records are at the National Archives—Southeast Region. Some records, such as those for the U.S. court at Mobile, begin as early as 1820. An index of about 7,000 names is in:

King, Clinton P. *Naturalization Records: Mobile, Alabama, 1833–1906*. Baltimore, Md.: Gateway Press, 1986. (FHL book 976.122/M1 P4k; film 1940594; computer number 415972.)

The Family History Library has very few pre-1906 naturalization records for Alabama. Contact the clerk of the court for the county of interest about the availability of records.

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—Southeast Region branch, at East Point, Georgia, or the nearest office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

For more information, see the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - NATURALIZATION AND
CITIZENSHIP
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - COURT
RECORDS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] -
NATURALIZATION AND
CITIZENSHIP

NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers can provide useful information. They publish notices of marriages, divorces, deaths, and funerals. Notices include names of the persons involved, the date of the event, and may contain maiden names, names of parents, and names of other living relatives.

Newspapers also publish articles of local interest including religious and social events in the community with the names of those involved.

Some newspapers serve several communities and devote columns to the everyday happenings in the area. Newspapers also include legal notices, estate sales, and advertising for local businesses.

Newspapers are an important source of family history information for Alabama. Look for marriage and death notices, news of visiting relatives, local events, stories about the elderly, and histories (continuing in several issues). The Tombigbee-Mobile area had the earliest newspapers, including the *Mobile Sentinel*, Fort Stoddert, 1811; *Mobile Gazette*, Mobile, 1812; *Halcyon*, St. Stephens, 1815; and *Blackall Sun* and *Alabama Advertiser*, Blackall, 1819. The probate judge of the county was required to maintain copies of all newspapers carrying legal notices. The judges did not always comply.

The Family History Library collects indexes and abstracts of newspapers, but has not acquired original newspapers for Alabama. The *Gandrud and Jones Alabama Records Collection* (see the “Genealogy” section) includes many extracts of newspaper and obituary records. Most of the newspaper records from that collection have been abstracted and published in:

Gandrud, Pauline, and Myra Jones. *Marriage, Death, and Legal Notices from Early Alabama Newspapers, 1819–1893*. Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1981. (FHL book 976.1 V2g; computer number 100518.) The book is well indexed.

Three guides to help you locate Alabama newspapers are:

Martin, Paul E., comp. *Alabama Newspapers Bibliography: A Working Paper*. Montgomery, Ala.: Alabama Department of Archives and History, 1989. This lists newspapers by county and tells where the newspapers are available.

Newspapers on Microfilm, Samford University Library. Birmingham, Ala.: Samford University Library, 1970. (FHL book 976.1 A1 no. 3; film 874252 item 7; computer number 253976.) This alphabetical list of newspapers shows the dates of publication and number of pages available on microfilm.

Owen, Thomas M. *Alabama Newspapers and Periodicals in 1915*. 1919. Reprint, Sheffield, Ala.: Jump Fast Copy, 1991. (FHL book 976.1 B5o; computer number 692722.) This contains names and descriptions of newspapers and periodicals published in Alabama in 1915.

Inventory on the Internet

Over 2,000 Alabama newspapers are cataloged in:

"Alabama Newspaper Project." In Alabama Department of Archives and History [database online]. Montgomery, Ala.: ADAH, 22 February 2000 [cited 17 March 2000]. Available at www.archives.state.al.us/newsp/newsp.html. This database briefly lists newspaper title, town, county, and life span of newspapers microfilmed at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Researchers can contact them for further details and obtain microfilm copies through interlibrary loan.

Newspapers are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - NEWSPAPERS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - NEWSPAPERS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - VITAL
RECORDS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
NEWSPAPERS

OBITUARIES

Obituaries provide such information as the age and occupation of the deceased; his or her birth date and place, including foreign town and country of birth; marriage date and place; parents' names; and the residences of living children, relatives, or other family members. A woman's maiden name may be given. Deceased family members are frequently mentioned. Obituaries may also indicate previous places of residence, immigration information, religious affiliation, and any social organizations or activities in which the deceased was involved. Obituaries have been published in Alabama since the early 1800s. Some examples of books with obituaries are:

Foley, Helen S. *Marriage and Death Notices from Alabama Newspapers and Family Records, 1819-1890*. Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1981. (FHL book 976.1 V2m; computer number 100520.) This book is indexed.

Tipton, Ennis Mayfield. *Marriages and Obituaries from the New Orleans Christian Advocate, 1851-1860*. Bossier City, La.: Tipton Printing and Publishing, 1980. (FHL 973 V2no; computer number 43433.) This book is indexed.

Torrey, Charles J. III. *Death Notices: Local and Foreign*. 6 vols. Mobile, Ala.: Mobile Genealogical Society, 1962-. (FHL book

976.122 V4t; computer number 631670.) These volumes contain obituaries from 1813 to 1879.

A card file of obituaries from Alabama newspapers between 1950 and 1980 is at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Obituaries are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - OBITUARIES
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - OBITUARIES
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
OBITUARIES
ALABAMA - NEWSPAPERS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - NEWSPAPERS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
NEWSPAPERS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - VITAL
RECORDS

PERIODICALS

Most family history periodicals have reprinted copies of local sources of genealogical value. These may include genealogies, information about local records and archives, queries, census indexes, transcripts of family Bible records, church records, court records, cemetery records, land records, obituaries, and wills. Over 35 periodicals are published in Alabama.

A list of Alabama genealogical and historical societies with the titles of their periodicals is on pages 51-54 of Marilyn Davis Barefield's *Researching in Alabama: A Genealogical Guide* cited in the "For Further Reading" section of this outline.

Major genealogical periodicals for Alabama are:

The Alabama Genealogical Register. 1959-1968. Formerly published by Elizabeth W. Thomas, ed., Tuscaloosa, Ala. (FHL book 976.1 B2a; computer number 210827.) This periodical is indexed and contains abstracts of marriage, cemetery, probate, and census records.

Alabama Genealogical Society Magazine. 1967-. Published by the Alabama Genealogical Society, c/o Samford University Library, P. O. Box 2296, 800 Lakeshore Dr., Birmingham, AL 35229-0001. (FHL book 976.1 B2ag; computer number 211721.) Included are abstracts of newspapers and census, marriage, military, court, and cemetery records. It is indexed.

AlaBenton Genealogical Society Quarterly. 1984–. Published by the AlaBenton Genealogical Society, c/o Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library, P.O. Box 308, Anniston, AL 36202. (FHL book 976.163 B2a; computer number 509820.) This contains abstracts of court, land, cemetery, marriage, and census records for northeastern Alabama counties. Most of the volumes are indexed.

Central Alabama Genealogical Society Quarterly. 1974–. Published by the Central Alabama Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 125, Selma, AL 36702–0125. (FHL book 976.1 B2c; computer number 654509.) They have a surname registration file and a surname index. It includes pedigree charts and queries and abstracts of probate, land, cemetery, military, and marriage records for central Alabama counties.

Deep South Genealogical Quarterly. 1963–. Published by the Mobile Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 6224, Mobile, AL 36660-6224. (FHL book 976.122 B2d; computer number 210946.) This quarterly contains abstracts of census, Bible, military, church, and marriage records. There is a surname index to volumes 1–10 and individual indexes to the subsequent volumes.

Natchez Trace Traveler. 1981–. Published by the Natchez Trace Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 420, Florence, AL 35631-0420. (FHL book 976.1 D25n; computer number 386872.) This publishes abstracts of church, cemetery, court, probate, and marriage records and tax lists of northwest Alabama counties. It includes membership and surname lists, but there is no index for each volume.

Pioneer Trails. 1959–. Published by the Birmingham Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 2432, Birmingham, AL 35201. (FHL book 976.178 B2p; computer number 223277.) Formerly *Pioneers*. Formerly *Birmingham Genealogical Society*. This has a cumulative index to 1970 and individual indexes after that. It includes pedigree charts of ancestors and abstracts of census, marriage, and cemetery records.

Settlers of Northeast Alabama. 1962–1980. Published by the Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 674, Gadsden, AL 35902. (FHL book 976.1 B2s; computer number 212182.) This periodical includes abstracts of land grant, Bible, census, cemetery, and marriage records. Most volumes are indexed.

Southeast Alabama Genealogical Society (Quarterly). 1985–1997. Dothan, Ala.: Southeast Alabama Genealogical Society. (FHL book 976.1 B2sa; computer number 509819.) This source continues under the title *Wiregrass Roots* (see below).

Tap Roots. 1963–. Published by the Genealogical Society of East Alabama, P.O. Box 2892 Drawer 1351, Opelika, AL 36830–2892. (FHL book 976.1 B2ta; computer number 210041.) Each volume contains an index and abstracts of marriage, census, cemetery, church, family, and Bible records for eastern Alabama counties.

Valley Leaves. 1966–. Published by the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1568, Huntsville, AL 35807. (FHL book 976.19 B2v; computer number 210820.) This publishes abstracts of newspapers and death, probate, court, land, military, and census records for the northern counties of Alabama. It is indexed.

Wiregrass Roots. 1997–. Published by the Southeast Alabama Genealogical & Historical Society, P.O. Box 246, Dothan, AL 363022–0246. (FHL book 976.1 B2sa; computer number 0808519.) Formerly *Southeast Alabama Genealogical Society Quarterly*. In addition to queries, this periodical contains abstracts of newspapers and cemetery, marriage, and census records. Some volumes contain an index.

Indexes. Most of the periodicals listed above have annual indexes in their final issue for the year. For nationwide indexes to many of these and other family history periodicals, see the “Periodicals” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972). The book and microfiche indexes commonly known as “PERSI” are especially useful since they refer to items published in thousands of English and French-Canadian family history periodicals. The sources for the *Periodical Source Index* are:

Periodical Source Index (PERSI). 31+ volumes. Ft. Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1986–. (FHL book 973 D25per 1847–1985; fiche 6016863 [set of 40]; computer number 444407; book 973 D25per (1986–1997); fiche 6016864 [set of 15] (1986–1990); computer number 658308.) This indexes over 1.1 million articles in over 5,000 English-language and French Canadian family history periodicals. For further instructions see the *Periodical Source Index Resource Guide* (34119). Electronic editions of the index are easier to use and more complete:

Periodical Source Index CD-ROM. Orem, Utah: Ancestry and the Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 61; computer number 808087.) This disc does not circulate to Family History Centers. It merges all 31+ volumes into one index.

“Periodical Source Index Search.” In Ancestry.com [Internet site]. [Orem, Utah]: Ancestry, 1999. Available at www.ancestry.com/ancestry/search/3165.htm. This online database is available only to Ancestry.com members for a subscription fee.

Periodicals are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - PERIODICALS
ALABAMA - GENEALOGY -
PERIODICALS
ALABAMA - SOCIETIES - PERIODICALS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - PERIODICALS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY -
PERIODICALS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - HISTORY -
PERIODICALS

PROBATE RECORDS

Wills usually mention the names of heirs and frequently specify how those heirs are related. Wills may also list names of children and married names of daughters. Probate records may not give an exact death date, but the death most often occurred within a few months of the date of probate. See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more information about probate records.

Probate records of Alabama have been kept by the probate court since the counties were created. These courts have records of estate, guardianship, and juvenile cases. The *Gandrud and Jones Alabama Records Collection* includes some of these records (see the “Genealogy” section of this outline).

The Family History Library has microfilms of probate records from most of the counties in Alabama, generally from the date a county was created to the 1920s. The types of records available from each county vary considerably. For some counties, the library has only the court minutes. Records from other counties include complete probate records, such as dower records, personal property sales, settlement records, orphans’ records, wills, and bonds.

An index for Alabama wills is:

Index to Alabama Wills, 1808–1870. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Edwards Brothers, 1955. (FHL fiche 6051441; computer number 254141.) This was compiled by the Daughters of the American Revolution in Alabama.

Probate records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - PROBATE RECORDS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - PROBATE
RECORDS
ALABAMA,
[COUNTY] - GUARDIANSHIPS

SOCIETIES

Genealogical, historical, lineage, veterans, fraternal, family name, and ethnic societies often collect, transcribe, and publish records useful to family historians. Local genealogical societies often help family history researchers contact local record searchers or copy records that mention the researcher’s ancestors. A current list of societies, archives, and libraries can be found on several Internet sites listed under “Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards” in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline. Some of these organizations have their own Internet sites. You can also find local society addresses by using directories cited in the “Societies” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

A list of Alabama Genealogical and Historical societies and the titles of their periodicals is on pages 51–54 of *Researching in Alabama: A Genealogical Guide* by Marilyn Davis Barefield, mentioned in the “For Further Reading” section of this outline.

Genealogical and historical societies often maintain a file for historical families of the area or for ancestors of society members. Most genealogical societies focus on local and regional records, but concentrate on the records and migrations of ethnic groups or minorities.

Societies may guide you to useful sources, suggest avenues of research, put you in touch with other genealogists who are interested in the same families, or perform research for you. The resources of the society may be useful in determining immigrant origins. Genealogical and historical societies occasionally publish transcriptions of original records. Most publish quarterly periodicals, a few of which are listed in the “Periodicals” section of this outline.

Some genealogical and historical societies hold conferences where lecturers discuss genealogical research methods, available sources, and other topics of interest to the genealogist. These lectures may include information on records or research helps on a local, regional, or national level. Transcripts, audio tapes, or class outlines from conferences are often made available to the public through the sponsoring society.

Family associations and surname societies have been organized to gather information about ancestors or descendants of specific individuals or families. Some seek out information on persons with a specific surname. See the "Societies" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for a directory and more information about these societies.

Clubs and occupational or fraternal organizations may have existed in the area where your ancestor lived. Those societies may have kept records of members or applications that may be of genealogical or biographical value. Though many of the old records have been lost, some have been donated to local, regional, or state archives and libraries. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) is an example of an organization an ancestor may have joined. See the "Civil War" section of the *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) for a discussion of their records.

Public librarians and county clerks may be aware of other local organizations or individuals that can be contacted for information and services. In many small communities, "old timers" are a wonderful resource for history and memories. Some maintain scrapbooks of obituaries and events in the community.

Lineage societies, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames, General Society of Colonial Wars, and Sons of the American Revolution, require members to prove they are descended from certain people, such as colonists or soldiers. The applications for membership in these societies are preserved and many are on microfilm at the Family History Library. In Alabama there are many members of national lineage societies. These societies are described in the "Societies" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972.)

To learn of Alabama genealogical societies that have records and services that may help you, contact:

Alabama Genealogical Society
Stamford University
P. O. Box 2296
800 Lakeshore Dr.
Birmingham, AL 35229-0001
Telephone: 205-870-2749
Internet address:
www.familyhistory.com/societyhall/viewmember.asp?societyid=6

For genealogical and historical societies that have records and services to help you with your research, also see the "Archives and Libraries," "Church Records," and "Periodicals" sections of this outline. Many counties also have local historical and genealogical societies.

For societies in Alabama at the town, county, and state levels, see the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - SOCIETIES
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - SOCIETIES
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
SOCIETIES
ALABAMA - GENEALOGY - SOCIETIES

Ethnic societies may also be found under:

UNITED STATES - MINORITIES -
SOCIETIES

TAXATION

Poll tax records for many counties are generally kept in the probate clerk's office. Poll taxes were imposed on all males of voting age, usually age 21. They generally were taken from the time the county was created. The lists are often organized by beat and then alphabetically by the first letter of the surname. Some of these records are on microfilm at the Family History Library. See, for example:

Alabama. Probate Court (Dallas County). *Poll Taxes, 1901-1950*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1987. (FHL films 1532154 item 4 and 1532155; computer number 482923.) These records contain the taxpayer's name, the year the person registered, and sometimes his or her exact birth date. The records may also indicate whether the person transferred to or from another county. Military service information may be included, such as the person's discharge number or year of death. If the taxpayer was female, both her maiden and married names may appear in the records.

A microfilm collection of Internal Revenue Tax lists taken in 1865 to 1866 is available:

United States. Bureau of Internal Revenue.
Internal Revenue Assessment Lists of Alabama, 1865–1866. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0754. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987. (FHL films 1578453–58; computer number 463742.) The counties are divided into three districts. See the Family History Library Catalog for counties and film numbers. The records are arranged by year and then usually by month.

Taxation records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - TAXATION
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - TAXATION

VITAL RECORDS

County Records of Births and Deaths

Beginning in 1881, counties were required to record births and deaths, though records do not exist for every county. The county death records specify name, age, gender, race, date, place, and cause of death. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of birth and death records from most counties.

State registration of births and deaths began 1 January 1908. Local record keepers did not fully comply until 1927 for births and 1925 for deaths. For information about county birth and death records, write to the county health department.

State Records of Births and Deaths

In Alabama statewide registration of births and deaths began in 1908 and was generally complied with by 1927. The Bureau of Vital Statistics has Alabama birth and death records from 1908 to the present.

The Family History Library has microfilms of statewide death records and death indexes for 1908 to 1972:

Alabama. Department of Health (Montgomery, Alabama). *Deaths, 1908–1972; Index to Deaths, 1908–1969*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1993. (On 708 FHL films beginning with 1909110; computer number 716643.)

For copies of birth and death registrations after 1908, write to:

Center for Health Statistics Record Services
State Department of Public Health
P.O. Box 5625
Montgomery, AL 36103
Telephone: 334-206-5418
Fax: 334-262-9563
Internet address: www.alapubhealth.org

Location:
RSA Tower
201 Monroe St., Suite 1150
Montgomery, AL 36104

For current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records contact the state office or visit their Web site.

County Marriage Records

Before statewide registration of marriages, the clerk of the probate court in each county issued licenses and recorded marriages. These records usually begin within 10 years of the creation of the county. By 1900, marriage certificates listed the names of the bride and groom, date of marriage, bondsmen, and licenced officiant. The records may include the names of parents and their ages, occupations, and number of previous marriages for each spouse. The Family History Library has microfilms of the county marriage records for most Alabama counties.

There are several statewide indexes:

Early Alabama Marriages 1810–1850: Many Continue or End Between 1850 to 1900, a Few Continue Through from 1900–1936. 44 vols. San Antonio, Tex.: Family Adventures, 1991. (FHL book 976.1 V22e; computer number 488236.) There are indexes for grooms and brides. This same information is published in *Early Alabama Marriage Records*. 36 vols. (FHL book 976.1 V2e; computer number 805381.) These volumes were also published in 1991.

Alabama Marriages Early to 1825: A Research Tool. Bountiful, Utah: Precision Indexing, 1991. (FHL book 976.1 V2a; computer number 664284.) Over 6,000 marriages are listed alphabetically with the name of the couple and their date and county of marriage.

Marriage Records [Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina]. Orem, Utah: Automated Archives, 1994. (FHL compact disc Series 9 no. 3;

computer number 683379.) The dates of the records for each county vary. The earliest records begin in 1807 and the latest extend to 1902.

Early marriage records are also included in the *Gandrud and Jones Alabama Records Collection* (see the "Genealogy" section of this outline).

State Marriage Records

Statewide registration of marriages began in 1936. The statewide marriage records are located at the State Department of Public Health (see address above).

The Family History Library has films of the statewide marriage records from 1936 to 1992 and indexes from 1936 to 1959:

Alabama. Department of Health. (Montgomery, Alabama). *Marriage Certificates, 1936-1992; Index, 1936-1959*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1993. (On 1016 FHL films beginning with 1907711; computer number 702039.)

Vital records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA - VITAL RECORDS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - VITAL RECORDS
ALABAMA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - VITAL RECORDS

VOTING REGISTERS

Yearly voting registers list the persons who were eligible to vote. Male citizens over the age of 21 were eligible to vote. Women will be listed only after 1920. The registers may be available from about 1900. The records sometimes mention the date and court of naturalization. They are arranged by precinct and are not alphabetical. They give the person's name, age, precinct, post office, and date of birth and include the years the poll tax was paid. Sometimes the record may indicate "deceased," "moved," "gone," or "out of county." The Family History Library has microfilms of many of these county records, sometimes to the 1940s. For example:

Alabama. Probate Court (De Kalb County). *Alphabetical List of Registered Voters, 1902-1930*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL film 1672913; computer number 564272.) These records are

arranged by year, location, and then surname. They include the name of the voter, and usually the age, precinct or ward, and post office. Beginning in 1908, the records usually give the exact date of birth.

Voting registers are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

ALABAMA, [COUNTY] - VOTING
REGISTERS

FOR FURTHER READING

These books will give you further information about the records of Alabama:

Barefield, Marilyn Davis. *Researching in Alabama: A Genealogical Guide*. Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1987. (FHL book 976.1 D27b; computer number 495717.) This book has a chapter about records that can help you research in the "burned counties." Maps show the Mississippi Territory in 1800, 1808, 1809, 1812, and 1815 and Alabama Territory in 1818. The book includes information about valuable records collections in various libraries and archives.

Elliott, Wendy L. *Research in Alabama*. Rev. ed. Bountiful, Utah: American Genealogical Lending Library, 1987. (FHL book 976.1 D27e; fiche 6117558; computer number 496936.) This book gives a good history of Alabama and includes chapters on court, land and property, military, and vital records. It includes maps and a bibliography.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

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We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

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Printed in USA.
Third Edition, May 2000. English approval: 7/00

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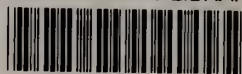
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